Tuesday, February 7, 2012 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 61 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DISTANCE to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Quake kills 52 in Negros

QUAKE PANIC Residents in Cebu City run scared as reports of a tsunami swept the city after a 6.9-magnitude earthquake shook the Central Visayas metropolis on Monday. The earthquake's epicenter was placed near Tayasan town in Negros Oriental. The Philippines lies in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. AP

Many still buried in 10 meters of rubble

By Alex Pal and Florence Bassa
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—At least 52 people were killed when a 6.9-magnitude earthquake hit Negros and Cebu provinces shortly before noon yesterday, causing landslides and huge cracks on highways, and violently shaking buildings, officials said.

A three-story building collapsed, while seven bridges were rendered impassable, they said.

In Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, at least 28 people were feared dead following a landslide in Barangay Plaridel, Mayor Ernesto Reyes said in a phone interview. He said there could be more fatalities in other barangays.

"They were buried in 10 feet (10 meters) of soil. If you had been buried from noon until now (6 p.m.), I don't expect you to be alive," Reyes said.

QUAKE A2

Senate OKs opening of CJ bank records

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

THE IMPEACHMENT court yesterday decided to subpoena Chief Justice Renato Corona's bank records since 2000, including his foreign currency deposits, a move that the prosecution team of the House of Representatives said would be "crucial" in proving that the Chief Justice misdeclared his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs).

Tranquil Salvador III, a defense lawyer, said the defense panel was still studying its legal remedy, insisting that the prosecution's attempt to scrutinize several bank accounts that Corona allegedly owned was not related to the second impeachment article—the Chief Justice's failure to declare his SALNs.

In a ruling read by Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, the Senate impeachment court lifted the effectivity of the Bank Secrecy Law insofar as Corona was concerned, subject to "specific limits."

The Senate impeachment court is exempted from Republic Act No. 1405, or the Bank Secrecy Law.

Covered by the ruling are de-

SENATE A4

BIR investigating Corona, family

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

CHIEF Justice Renato Corona is now the subject of an income tax deficiency assessment by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to establish whether he had paid the correct amount of taxes from January 1997 to December 2010.

Corona's wife Cristina, daughter Carla and son-in-law Constantino Castillo III are also being investigated, according to Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares.

Henares made this revelation at the Senate impeachment court while under cross-examination by the lead defense counsel, Serafin Cuevas.

BIR INVESTIGATING A4

Tsunami warning triggers stampede

By Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—"I couldn't help but feel eerie because people were crying. I started to get scared, too."

Radio technician Nilo Barriga was collecting his wife after being suddenly caught in the road rush of people while walking on Colon Street following "reports" that a tsunami hit the downtown area.

The fear triggered panic in the city's major streets as shoppers, office workers, students and even beggars and the usual strollers scrambled in different directions.

Those who stayed on the streets around Fuente Osmeña Rotonda after a 6.9-magnitude earthquake rocked Cebu and Negros shortly before noon yes-

TSUNAMI A2

JAYME Outdoor ads

Fariñas comes out swinging at defense

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and Cynthia D. Balana

A HOUSE prosecutor, Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas, stood up for the first time last night to warn the top soldier lawyers representing Chief Justice Renato Corona for free in his impeachment trial that they could be liable for graft and possibly conflict of interest.

"This is prohibited under Republic Act No. 6713 and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act," said Fariñas, who placed eighth in the bar exams in 1978.

Fariñas said it was highly possible that prominent lawyers on the

FARIÑAS A6

Sagalsag: Corona's free use of lawyers unethical / A2

No rest day when P-Noy turns 52

By Christine O. Avendaño

NO DAY OFF when he turns 52 tomorrow but maybe a special date on Valentine's Day?

President Aquino couldn't help but smile broadly when asked what his birthday wish was.

"If you are the chief servant, your wishes are not that important, especially on a personal basis," the bachelor President told reporters yesterday. "So as not to have any

NO REST A10

PH ad exec is Cannes Lions juror

MERLEE Jayme, the chair and chief creative officer of DDB DM9 Jayme|Syfu, has been chosen as one of the members of the jury for outdoor advertising in this year's Cannes Lions Advertising Festival.

Jayme and other jurors led by Lo Sheung Yin, the executive creative director of JWT for Northeast Asia and JWT's chair for China, will judge the most

PH ADS A6

New SolGen worries Luisita farmers

By Leila B. Salaverria and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE CHANGING of the guard at the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) should not lead to a change in its position to distribute Hacienda Luisita to land tillers, farmers and reform groups said yesterday.

The groups expressed concern that the resignation of Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz could be linked to the land dispute.

Renato Reyes of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan noted that Cadiz resigned before the Supreme Court case on the sugar estate, which is owned by President Aquino's family, could become final.

"We are very concerned about the position of the replacement of Sol Gen Cadiz on the Luisita dispute still pending in the Supreme Court. Cadiz's resignation comes at a critical juncture when the court sets to rule with finality on the case," Reyes said.

The Supreme Court ordered in November last year the distribution of the Tarlac sugar estate to farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, ending years of heated debate over the fate of the land.

The hacienda management has filed a motion for reconsid-

NEW SOLGEN A6

Sculpture by world-renowned artist on display at Resorts World Manila

Resorts World Manila (RWM) is giving Filipinos a rare chance to see the work of world-renowned artist Peter Max when it opens the doors of its exclusive exhibition "Infinite Possibilities" personally curated by the artist at RWM's Theater World. The extraordinary display showcases a wide-ranging collection of Max by Lee Kok Thay, Chairman of Malaysian conglomerate Genting Group.

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ACROSS	BUSINESS	WORLD	SPORTS	NEWS
More funds sought for 'Sendong' victims / A15	**DOTC** lists priority projects for PPP / B1	**Obama** says it's risky to attack Iran / A22	**Super Bowl:** Manning stars as Giants thwart Patriots / A17	**P-Noy** slams customs bureau over corruption / A2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with occasional rains in Metro Manila and nearby provinces due to the northeast monsoon. Partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the rest of the country. Slight to moderate winds coming from the northeast. Moderate to rough seas.

	High	Low
Baguio	21	4
Tagaytay	29	20
Laoag	34	23
Metro Manila	31	23
Puerto Princesa	32	24
Legazpi	31	23
Cebu	31	24
Iloilo	31	24
Zamboanga	32	24
Davao	32	24

6/49 15 10 21 4 14 16

SUERTRES 1 4 5 9 1 5 9 2 3

FOUR DIGIT 9 6 7 6

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6/55 GRAND LOTTO 20 27 35 37 42 50 P213,771,355.20

P-Noy slams graft at customs bureau

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S LIKE being slapped in the face.

This was President Aquino's angry reaction to the continuing corruption at the Bureau of Customs despite measures put in place by former Commissioner Angelito Alvarez and the latter's successor, Ruffy Biazon.

Apologizing early on to those who might be offended by what he was about to say, the President expressed his displeasure at the horror stories of corruption involving the bureau and its personnel, in his speech at the agency's 110th anniversary celebration yesterday.

The President cited several cases, including that of the Porsche-driving Customs clerk who is now facing administrative charges for filing a post at Fort Bonifacio and beating those up following a traffic altercation.

"It's a kind of mentality that isn't better than the rest, isn't it," the Chief Executive said in his speech which, he pointed out, he had rewritten on the last minute as he could say that piece.

Mechanizing has ordered the Customs clerk's dismissal as a result of the incident.

Mr. Aquino also cited the case of someone he knows whose aide ended up making her almost an extra day for the release of a package in the Post Office just because he was not able to trust the employee there to mark[illegible] (marks).

"The [illegible] was had a price—P2,500," Mr. Aquino said, adding that the aide ended up waiting for the package to be released at 3 p.m. even though he got there at 9 a.m.

The President also mentioned someone whom he said had bragged that his watch was worth one million of pesos. "When this person was asked what his job was, he answered that he was 'one of the biggest rats and rogue smugglers in the country.'"

Mr. Aquino said that those kinds of cases serve a slap in his face.

"I can take being slapped for the sake of the country but what I find unacceptable is for the needs of the people to be stepped. This [corrupt] trample on the people who gave them the opportunity to serve them. That can't be," he said.

The President appealed to the customs bureau to help fix the system as he vowed to fix the some it was in.

Talks on expanding US military presence still on – Del Rosario

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Christine O. Avendaño

MOST recent's high-level talks between the Philippines and the United States on expanding Washington's military presence in the country will push through as planned contrary to some reports, according to Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario.

Del Rosario yesterday told the bayanan the meeting was "still tentatively scheduled for March," adding that "I have not heard otherwise."

Citing informed diplomats sources, another Manila newspaper reported over the weekend that the following have to be postponed until the Aquino-Obama summit next up with specific proposals on where to base US warships and spy planes on a rotating schedule.

US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta had supposedly wanted "substantive deliverables" issued out before the high-level conference, said the report.

The report further said that finding a mutually convenient time when the principals—Panetta and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the US side and Del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin for the Philippines—could get together was proving difficult.

A Manila-based news info source cited the same report.

Yesterday, President Aquino said his administration was talking to the US about enhancing the Philippines' defense capabilities and not country should see this as a kind of offensive against them.

"There are no ongoing negotiations per se, but there are ongoing dialogues," Mr. Aquino told reporters on the sidelines of the 110th anniversary celebration of the Bureau of Customs.

The President said there was no need for China to be concerned.

"Should it be a concern for China? No. We stress that what we want to do is to be able to move our troops," he said, citing the need to protect the Philippines' 36,000 nautical miles of coastline.

He said the country's bid was "nothing of an offensive capability but to enhance our ability to protect our country, to be able to respond to national, natural disasters or even isolated natural disasters."

Asked whether the result of the ongoing dialogue with the US would result in amendments to the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Mr. Aquino said the talks will "always have to conform to the Constitution and to call the president limits."

"We are not envisioning a need for any constitutional change at the present time," the President said.

Earlier, Manila and Washington issued a joint statement following the close on Jan. 27 of their second bilateral strategic dialogue in the US capital, where they looked forward to "strengthening our bilateral relations in a joint manner for meeting" in March among Del Rosario, Gazmin, Clinton and Panetta.

The two sides also highlighted "upcoming opportunities for further high-level engagements, including a visit by US Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro to the Philippines in February."

During their Jan. 26-27 dialogue, the two allies reaffirmed their "commitment to fulfill the vision of the 2011 Manila Declaration through an invigorated and expanded alliance capable of addressing 21st century challenges."

They referred to the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty as the "basis for the alliance and the treaty's continued relevance to the peace, security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific."

They "committed to further enhance cooperation in security, defense, commerce, law enforcement, human rights and disaster relief," as they also "agreed to deepen and broaden our maritime security cooperation."

Also on Jan. 27, Del Rosario said the Philippines would accept no increased US military presence in the country, but emphasized that this would be in accordance with Philippine laws which bar the basing of foreign troops.

Saguisag: Corona's free use of lawyers unethical

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Lucy Sulmaca and Kristine Fulgencio

CITING a provision in the Code of Judicial Conduct, former Sen. Rene Saguisag yesterday accused Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona of unethical conduct for accepting the services of lawyers for free.

"Under Rule 3(8) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, a judge or any member of his family shall not accept any gift or favor. So here, he is not the only one complicit, even his lawyers serving pro bono on," Saguisag pointed out.

Speaking at yesterday's baptism at Diamond Hotel, Saguisag cited how the Chinese couple, during the American president's impeachment trial, paid for their legal bills using the proceeds of their respective autobiographies.

"But really, they (Coronas) had high-powered lawyers who were not moving for nothing. Here, they are serving pro bono, so each one of them is embedded in violation of Rule 3(8) of the Code of Judicial Conduct," he said.

Saguisag stressed, "Mr. (Corona) cannot accept diamond presidencia, diamond diploma and free legal services. Those are prohibited under (Rule) 3(8)."

According to Saguisag, he had heard rumors of Corona's resignation after he is acquitted by the impeachment court.

"I think (Corona) is very badly damaged goods today. He is merely floating on the waters of the law. There is a scandalbait ... that once he is acquitted he probably will resign anyway. That rumor is going around because he can be charged again," he said.

Saguisag explained that another impeachment complaint could be initiated against Corona next year if the court let one fade.

Alliance Rep. Walden Bello raised doubts that Corona could serve effectively as Chief Justice after he is acquitted.

Bello maintained that even if Corona were cleared he would not have the moral ascendancy to continue to serve.

Justices asked to inhibit selves

SAYING that they were considered to be in line to succeed Chief Justice Renato Corona, two prominent lawyers yesterday asked Supreme Court Associate Justices Teresita de Castro and Ma. Lourdes Sereno to inhibit themselves from the deliberations on the petitions seeking to stop Corona's impeachment trial in the Senate.

Lawyers Homobono Adaza and Alan Paguia in a motion said Carpio and Sereno had "interests" in the outcome of the pending petitions since "would see be impartial in casting their votes" on the eventual ruling of the tribunal.

"Justices Carpio and Sereno could become the next chief justice if Chief Justice Corona is convicted. It is known in legal and media circles that Sereno is a favorite of the President," Adaza told reporters after filing the motion yesterday afternoon.

The petition noted that Carpio had long been considered Corona's rival for the post of Chief Justice even before their President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo chose Corona.

The petition said that Gonzales had disclosed, as a result of Chief Justice Corona's recent speech that there were three high-ranking government officials responsible for the filing of impeachment charges against him, that Carpio was one of the persons behind the filing of the impeachment complaint.

Adaza added that Carpio and Sereno "put Corona in a bad light" when they released their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) while Corona was being assailed in the media for his non-disclosure of [illegible]. Philip C. Tubeo

Iggy won't be home soon, says lawyer

THE REMAINS of Imigdio Onofre Jovedal Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo Jr. won't be arriving anytime soon, after his former lover Grace Rosca Rivel an injunction to stop the transfer, according to the late lawmaker's legal wife.

Contrary to the perception that she and Diana were fighting over the remains, Melo "Mel" Morales-Arroyo said she did not have to drag it out with Diana because she had rights over the body.

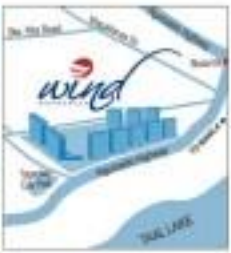
Her lawyer, Lorna Kapunan, meanwhile cautioned the lawyer[illegible]'s family, particularly his children, that Diana alleged "Mike" Arroyo, to be wary of any information they were being given. She said they were being misinformed about the return of Iggy's remains.

The body "won't be coming home anytime soon," she said.

In a press conference yesterday evening, Kapunan said that Rosca, through her solicitor (lawyer), was granted an injunction by a London court effectively stopping the transport of Iggy Arroyo's remains. The injunction was good for seven days and a hearing on whether to extend the order was scheduled for Friday.

Alleh Arroyo presented a certificate from a Quezon City court declaring that her marriage to Iggy Arroyo had yet to be annulled. The document was sent to the Philippine Embassy in London and will be added to the formal[illegible] handling Iggy's remains to meet her claim to the legal wife.

She also appealed to the media not to be unnecessarily intrusive in reporting, saying that Diana was being portrayed as the aggrieved one. Alleh said it was she who was trying to settle the issue amicably. Miko Morales



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Gazmin: No need to present terrorists' remains

By Jo Martinez-Ciencewa
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City—There is no need to present the bodies of the top leaders of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group and other terrorist leaders who were killed in a military air strike last week in Jolo, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said here yesterday.

"Hindi na kailangan ipakita ang (We don't need to present the) bodies," Gazmin told reporters on the sidelines of a leadership turnover ceremony at the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) here.

He was referring to terror suspects Zulkifli bin Hir from Malaysia and Abdullah Ali from Singapore who were said by the military to have been killed in the air strike on an Abu Sayyaf hideout in Jolo.

Special Forces leader Gilbert Asnad said 12 others were also killed when Philippine Air Force planes bombed the camp in the Jolo of Jolo, according to the military.

Police investigators, however, failed to retrieve any bodies, triggering doubts about the military's claim.

But Gazmin said here that it would be impossible to identify victims of air strikes. He said the only way to identify them was through DNA tests.

"Paano mo ma-identify? Isinabog yun. Kuha pa DNA (How can you identify them? They were destroyed. Possibly through DNA)," he said.

He said confirmation of the deaths was coming from intelligence reports and "people on the ground," but he declined to elaborate.

Gazmin likened the situation to the case of an Abu Sayyaf leader who was killed in military operations several years ago. He said people were initially hesitant to believe AFP reports on the leader's death without seeing.

"Walang body, but up to now, di na nagpakita (There was no body, but up to now he has not shown himself)," Gazmin said.

While it was not clear who Gazmin was referring to, two top leaders of the Abu Sayyaf were killed in military operations in recent years. Abu Sabaya and Khadaffy Janjalani were slain in separate incidents, and their bodies were recovered.

Gazmin on Monday led the Nolcom turnover rites from outgoing commander and now AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Jessie Dellosa to Lt. Gen. Anthony Alcantara. Both Dellosa and Alcantara belong to Philippine Military Academy Class of 1979.

In accepting his command, Alcantara, who served as AFP deputy chief of staff before his appointment, vowed to "sustain and pursue the government's peace campaign vigorously."

He said he would make sure that even in emergency-related areas, "laws are observed, basic rights of people are respected and the commitment to the international humanitarian law is upheld."

He also vowed to pursue peace efforts through community development and help alleviate poverty in communities.

Asked about the insurgency situation in Nolcom's seven-provinced areas, Alcantara said Central Luzon was peaceful and military efforts there would be directed at maintaining it this.

Dellosa said that except for the Cordillera, where the terrain is difficult, northern Luzon is practically free of insurgency.

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Solon wants alleged US involvement probed

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Jerry E. Esplanada

A MILITANT lawmaker wants Congress to look into the United States military's supposedly broadening involvement in Philippine military operations.

Gabriela party-list Rep. Luz Ilagan said she would file a resolution to look into reports of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' extensive use of US spy planes, Predator drones and unmanned aerial vehicles in its military operations.

"If these reports are true, then US troops are participating in and conducting operations beyond what is allowed by the Visiting Forces Agreement and directly transgress our sovereignty," said Ilagan in a statement.

She said the US military intervention was a "perennial magnet" that could draw the Philippines into a conflict in the region that might be instigated by the United States.

Ilagan was alarmed at reports that a recent military air strike in Sulu that supposedly led to the deaths of three leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and its ninah Jemaah Islamiyah terror group was guided in by an unmanned US drone.

Ilagan said that talks between President Aquino and US President Barack Obama on increasing the US military presence in the country had further heightened concerns over violations of the VFA.

"The presence of US troops and their direct combat participation had long been reported in Mindanao and had resulted in gross violations. These include the massacre in Ipil, Mindanao, Sulu, which resulted in the deaths of eight civilians and the shooting of Buyong-buyong Jenjid in 2000. We reiterate our call for the immediate abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement and an end to US military intervention," Ilagan said.

For its part, the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) yesterday urged Malacañang to "come clean on the extent of the participation of US troops in the Sulu raid that killed alleged Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah leaders."

In a statement, Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said "The timing of the news on the air strike is suspect, coming in the wake of reports that more US troops are headed our way."

"As an Inquirer columnist pointed out today, was it really the Philippine Air Force that conducted the bombing or did the US use unmanned Predator drones? The involvement of US troops in the air strike indicates their involvement in combat operations here, an act prohibited under our laws," Reyes said.

On the 11th anniversary of the Balikatan-American War on Terror, the Bayan leader said, "It is the greatest irony that the Balangiga bells and no to the return of more US troops and ships."

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- the dominance of the oligarchy in the economic life, distorting market forces – among others.

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Taiwan air-nav system to rise on Spratlys isle

TAIPEI—Taiwan's defense ministry on Monday said it was preparing to set up an air navigation system on the disputed Spratlys islands, in a move that could spark fresh tensions in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

Defense ministry spokesperson David Lo said the system, known as the "tacan-air navigation system," will help guide flights to overseas on Taiping Isle, the biggest island in the Spratlys chain.

"The system is not a weapon and will not pose any military threat to concerns in the area," Lo told Agence France-Presse.

The system consists of a beacon that emits signals to inform approaching aircraft about the location of an airstrip.

Taiwan built a 1,200-meter runway on the fortified Taiping Isle in mid-2006, despite protests from the other countries with claims to the disputed island group.

Lo would not provide more details of the new project, but the Taipei-based Liberty Times said the contractor that won the bid will start work in late February and construction will take two months.

The tenth, concrete second air-traffic beacon, will become the landmark building on the far islet, it said.

Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, China, Malaysia and the Philippines claim all or part of the potentially oil-rich Spratlys. AFP

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Senate OKs opening of CJ bank records

From page A1

...and accounts in funds of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank), and "other bank accounts, including time deposits, money market placements, peso/dollar accounts and the like."

"The majority votes to grant the prosecution's motion for subpoena to the responsible officers of branch of Philippine Savings Bank and Bank of the Philippine Islands," said Iloilo.

The ruling directed top officials of the two banks to appear at the Senate on 2 p.m. on July 6 "to testify and bring and/or produce before the court documents on the alleged bank accounts of Chief Justice Corona, only for the purpose of the instant impeachment proceedings."

The court also granted the issuing of the BSP branch on Iloilo Avenue, Makati City, to produce "the original and certified true copies of the account opening forms/documents for Bank Account No. 1441-0020-01 in the name of Corona or Corona Jr. and the bank statements showing the balances of the said accounts."

For BPI, the account balances subpoenaed by the court covered six years: Dec. 31, 2005; Dec. 31, 2006; Dec. 31, 2007; Dec. 31, 2008; Dec. 31, 2009; and Dec. 31, 2010.

Those balances concern Corona's 10 accounts with Philbank: 1001-1000-0307-3, 0390-0203-0024-9, 0390-1210-7358,0001-1110-9501, 0001-1210-9383, 000-141-80746-9,0001-1410-0026-0, 0001-221-0-105-7 and 0001-1401-0071-0.

Besides Philbank and the Philippine Savings Bank, the presiding officer of the impeachment trial, made it clear that the court had not yet ruled on the admissibility in evidence of the bank records.

"The resolution of this court was only to authorize the issuance of a subpoena, and not whether those evidence subpoenaed are admissible evidence given the fact that they apparently appear in violation of existing laws," said Enrile.

He said that this question would be resolved in "due course."

"We are not judging the admissibility of those evidences. This issue will come out, when the subpoenaed materials and testimonies are offered as evidence. All of those incidental issues will be (discussed) in the proper time," he said.

Caucus

The ruling was arrived at following a caucus by the Senate, **which acted on the ruling** requests for the issuance of subpoena, both dated Jan. 31, on the following documents:

- **Customer identification** and specimen signature cards of the Philbank accounts of Corona which were the subject of the Philbank monthly settlements ratification, as listed in the official list of witnesses as of March 13, 2008;"
- a Monthly bank statements from the time of opening in January 2001 of the Philbank accounts under the name of Corona;
- Other Philbank accounts, including time deposits, money market placements, peso/dollar accounts and the like belonging to Corona or his wife, Cielito;
- The original and certified true copies of the account opening form, monthly bank statements for 2003 to December 2010, and December 2011 of bank accounts No. 1441-0020-01 in the name of Corona "or such other accounts that are in the name of Renato Corona and/or Cristina Corona."

'Unreasonable search'

The defense panel manifested in a consolidated opposition and rejoinder, ahead of the oral arguments, that the bank records were irrelevant to the impeachment complaint.

Once again, the impeachment court is being hoodwinked into sanctioning a fishing expedition," the defense panel's spokesperson Tranquil Salvador III said.

Salvador said he was "extremely alarmed" by the position taken by the prosecution panel that it was not limited to the answers of the witness," Corona stopped after Senator Escudero her reply.

"The witness already answered," Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile noted. "Why strike it out? She's under cross examination."

Corona explained that Honasan's statement was but "personal opinion."

He went on to ask whether the BSP's investigation of Corona's six peso/dollar accounts was being conducted without his knowledge.

"May I ask for a waiver from Chief Justice Corona to allow this witness to testify confidential information, Sir," Honasan said, addressing Enrile.

Enrile rephrased the question. "Are you obligated to inform the Chief Justice that you are now testifying on the information on his income tax position? Because it's still confidential meaning, you did not inform him?"

Narkon to Corona

Honasan said Corona had violated the confidentiality nature of authorities indicating that "a certain overseas officer" was undergoing his ITRs.

"He issued that (letter) after the hearing where I was called here," she added.

Lim said that during Corona's cross-examination of Honasan at the time, she noticed "a lot of discrepancies" in Corona's SALN and ITRs.

Honasan said she was shown copies of Corona's SALN for 2002 up to 2010 "given... by a media person that I never marked respectfully as exhibits."

She added that the BIR would only have a copy of anyone's SALN "when we request it from the custodian" of the document.

At this point, Lim interjected that Corona's SALNs were "tainted by violations as to accuracy, truthfulness and fairness."

"That is just your opinion, I'm asking for a factual statement," Enrile cut him off.

He then ordered Lim to qualify. "Is there any other reason, prosecutor Corona, for compliant that Honasan was not under cross-examination and could not be qualified by a prosecutor.

"Why are we blocking the truth from coming out here," Lim complained.

Properties not in SALN

Honasan eventually told the impeachment court that based on Corona's SALNs that were examined by the BIR, Corona declared only the properties in the documents since he became an associate justice in 2002.

She said these properties included the seven parcels of land in Marikina City that defense lawyers claimed were already sold to a certain Demetrio Hernandez.

Honasan added that in 2003, Corona underdeclared his property at La Vista subdivision in Quezon City.

"He reported it as (having a value of) 6% million when it should have been P11 million," Honasan said.

She also said another property registered to one P621,000 should have been indicated as P2.500 million, while Corona's net worth for 2003 should have been P34 million instead of P7 million.

"In 2004, again the same discrepancies. The property in Marikina and another in Orbit were not included in the SALN, as well as the condominium (unit) in The Cubicon (worth) P17.2 million," Honasan said.

The BIR chief said Corona's net worth for that period "should be P31.65 million but he reported P7 million."

Honasan went on, stating Corona did not declare property in Fort Bonifacio in 2005.

"He reported a net worth of P6.3 million whereas it should have been P21.224 million in 2006," she said.

In 2007, Corona's supposed real net worth was P34 million but he reported only P31 million, Honasan said.

More discrepancies

In 2008, Honasan said Corona's "net worth discrepancies" ballooned to P71 million, having declared only P31 million instead of P52 million.

Honasan said Corona did not declare his real net worth of P62 million in 2009 "because of hellapeño-itis," apparently referring to the Chief Justice's alleged P18-million purchase of a 3BR/2 million penthouse unit in Taguig City.

She said that during that year, Corona declared a net worth of P44.5 million.

In the year when Corona was appointed the Chief Justice by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, "his net worth seems down because of the (La Vista property) sale of P18 million to Charito."

Honasan said his information was "based on analysis using net worth to assess the tax deficiency of Corona."

"We passed a letter of authority to audit them based on these findings. So we are investigating him further for 1997," she said.

Corona turned in, moving to strike out Honasan's testimony with "hearsay" evidence.

"The attitude of impeachment show-nothing there vs. problems this kind of evidence. The Chief Justice is not being impeached by false declaration," he said.

"You once reserve that in your evidence," Enrile suggested. "Anyway, let it be."

Raven Asinio, one of the defense panel's spokespersons, said it was still "premature" to determine supposed errors in Corona's SALN and ITRs. With a report from Marlon Ramos

BIR investigating Corona, family

From page A1

"This investigation is being conducted notwithstanding the pendency of the impeachment trial? You did not find anything objectionable (with) that effect that enacted prevention? You are not finding wrong with it?" Cuevas asked the BIR chief.

"If the public expects us to do it. Under the rules of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Code...," Henares started to explain.

"Who is the public?" Cuevas stopped him.

"The public we serve as revenue collector of the Philippines, whoever that public may be," Henares coolly replied.

Henares said she issued a letter of authority to tax examiners/officers to examine Corona's tax records from January 1997 to December 2010, with Cristina's from January 2003 to December 2010, daughter Carla Castillo's from January 2007 to December 2010, and son-in-law Constantino Castillo III's from January 1998 to December 2010.

In the case of the cross examination, Cuevas pointed out that **Henares as BIR chief was** "under legal obligation to examine" Corona's statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

BIR functions

Henares countered, however, that her inherent functions included examining tax returns submitted by taxpayers.

She added that since the second article of impeachment was related to Corona's supposed nondeclaration of certain assets in his SALNs, she presumed that her testimony on the Chief Justice's accounts is to return ITRs) would be unopposed eventually on the contents of his annual SALN.

"But you never made any conclusion that the buyer (Corona) cannot purchase the properties?" Cuevas asked Henares.

"I did not come to any such conclusion," she replied. "I only said I commence further investigation."

Henares added that she ordered the assessment of Corona's tax payments after she was notified before the impeachment court on Jan. 16.

Cuevas pointed out that Henares' use of Corona's SALNs as basis for the BIR's assessment, her private prosecutor Jethro Lim said the examination of SALNs would be necessary should tax evasion cases be filed against erring taxpayers.

Henares countered that a government official was expected to file "complete and true" returns in his SALN. "That is my understanding," she said.

"I would think the SALN requires me to completely list all my assets to help the public ascertain whether I enriched myself (unduly), otherwise, it is a useless exercise," Henares said.

Last week, the defense panel found an unlikely ally in Sen. Ralph Recto of the Liberal Party who quoted a ruling from the Civil Service Commission prevailing that a public official could make corrections in his SALN if an error was found.

"I want to make sure the answers of the witness," Cuevas stopped after Honasan made her reply.

"The witness already answered," Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile noted. "Why strike it out? She's under cross examination."

Cuevas explained that Honares' statement was but "personal opinion."

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New SolGen worries Hacienda Luisita farmers

From page A2

...cution and clarification over the amount to be paid to the farmers and asked the court to give the farmers the option to remain as stockholders.

Before this decision was handed down, the ORC under Cadiz purchased the shares of Tarlac Governor Victor de los Reyes, but argued for the distribution of land and had contested the previous court ruling that allowed farmers to choose between getting shares of stocks or a retail of P1 million per hectare.

Efrenong Magbalosbalos of Pinglisan (DMF) believes that the Cadiz's resignation has something to do with the controversial case.

"We believe that Solicitor General Antonio Cadiz's resignation is closely linked to the continuing political maneuvers and unswerving being exerted by the President's family involving the Hacienda Luisita agrarian dispute," said Randall Echanis, the KMP deputy secretary general.

Rich Reyes and Solanon were adamant that the position taken by Cadiz should stay.

"The new SolGen must not depart from the basic position already taken by the OSG," Reyes said. "We will be closely watching the new SolGen should he take on a position favorable to Luisita."

Peasant leaders also would be questions about whether the Hacienda Luisita case was a factor in the selection of Cadiz's replacement.

Next SolGen

Cadiz will be replaced by Deputy Solicitor-Gen. Francis Jardeleza, who used to be the general counsel of San Miguel Corp., partly owned by the President's uncle, Eduardo Cojuangco.

Jardeleza declined to be interviewed by the media on Monday because there was no statement yet from Malacañang about his appointment.

Jardeleza has a master of laws from Harvard Law School and was the salutatorian of his class at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

He used to work for the Arroyo Law Office and had assisted the Irrigation department. He later left to put up his own law firm.

San Miguel lawyer

In 1996, he became the senior vice president and counsel of San Miguel Corp. and held the position up to June 30, 2010, leaving it for early retirement.

He specialized in mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, securities, intellectual property and corporate governance. He teaches commercial law at the UP College of Law.

A national coalition of peasant farmers' group on Monday assailed the looming appointment of Jardeleza as solicitor general.

The appointment of Jardeleza as Solicitor General is unacceptable "bad news" for peasant farmers who claim ownership of the 20 percent in San Miguel shares in Cojuangco's name, said Jaime Fernandez, spokesperson of Kilusang Bayan ng Tunay na Repormang Agraryo at Katarungang Panlipunan (Katarungan).

Fernandez said Mr. Aquino obviously wants to put people's lawyer as SolGen and not a lawyer of his uncle, Danding.

Coco levy shares

She said Katarungan feared that Jardeleza would not lift a single finger in favor of farmers in Hacienda Luisita, and Cadiz resigned "because of his failure to protect the interest of Aquino in Hacienda Luisita."

"There is no great deal of reason why he resigned not unless he made Aquino mad in his position in distribute Hacienda Luisita, Don Cerong, now Cadiz. Who's next in line?" DMF secretary general Balosbalos said in a statement.

Mum said the resignation of Cadiz and the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona was part of the "grand plan of the Cojuangco-Aquino clan to take back Hacienda Luisita." With a report from Philip Tubeza

PH ad exec is Cannes Lions juror

From page A1

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Fariñas comes out swinging at defense team

From page A1

defense panel have pending cases in the Supreme Court, thus their presence in his legal team may be construed a certain way.

Apart from former Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas, who serves as Corona's lead counsel, the Chief Justice's defense panel includes Eduardo de los Angeles and Jacinto Jimenez.

"Because they are giving them gift, their services, for free to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and they come from big law firms and have pending cases before the Supreme Court," Fariñas said in Filipino.

Fariñas, who is tasked with presiding over the trial proper of the impeachment complaint, said top lawyers giving their services to Corona for free further aggravated the Chief Justice's situation that the impeachment proceedings were actually "an attack against the judiciary."

Senator Pendleton Juan Ponce Enrile reminded Fariñas that the Chief Justice was "allowed to a counsel of his choice. He cannot deny that from him."

"What we are saying is that it is illegal for a public official to accept gifts of great material value," Enrile said.

"That his lawyers are known to be very competent and charge high rates (is irrelevant), yet they gave their services for free, this in matter could be detrimental to the independence of the (Chief Justice)," he added.

Fariñas' disinclination here is the problem seen a surprise to many observers of the impeachment trial.

For one, he is the sole prosecutor among the 11-man panel appointed by the House of Representatives who did not sign the impeachment complaint against Corona.

Second, he openly rumpled

PROSECUTION BAZOOKA Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas turns the tables on Renato Corona's defense team saying the pro bono services of top-notch lawyers from big law firms smacktown graft and corruption.

from the prosecution panel two weeks ago had fellow prosecutor Eladio Balinga Jr. not talked him.

Fariñas, who finished his law studies at Ateneo de Manila University, was reportedly distressed at how the prosecution panel had been handling the job of proving Corona's guilt to its role 2.

Fariñas' warning to the defense came after Cuevas complained that the entry of more private prosecutors to aid Sen. Aquino and company would further deplete the government coffers.

"Your honors, please, with due respect to the private prosecutors, there may be a necessity of an additional P50 million appropriation to take care of them," he said.

The Senate earlier announced it released P9 million for prosecutors in the impeachment trial.

"That's our money, your honor," Cuevas said, addressing Enrile. "That's the money of the taxpayer!"

The defense would be flustered. A phalanx of prosecutors is arrayed against (you)," Enrile fumed in.

"But we are concerned also of depleting the resources of the People of the Philippines! That's your money. That's my money and the money of everybody here, your honor," Cuevas insisted.

"If they are not spent in accordance with law, then this could be technical malversation," he warned.

This prompted Fariñas to remind that all of private lawyers aiding the defense team appearing for free in the impeachment trial.

To defuse the tension, Enrile assured Fariñas that the government's prosecution arsenal "risks your expert services," if there is evidence of any illegal gift or bribery or whatever.

"You (prosecutors) are saying your private lawyers are probum. The defense says likewise. Who knows?" the Senate President said.

Under my oath as an elected official, I assure the court that our lawyers are pro bono," Fariñas said.

He said he was irked by Cuevas' statement questioning the use of public funds in prosecuting Corona and in paying for the services of the prosecution's private lawyers.

"Further further speech," he said with a laugh as a press conference in describing his colleagues with Cuevas. "It's not normally correct. Except for aspirational aspirants, we don't spend anything. Those are for lawmakers and they provide their legal services to us for free," he said.

He clarified told the lawyers that he had "long litigation experience" with himself as his own lawyer in many criminal cases filed against him.

"In who lives in a glass house should be the last to throw stones," Fariñas said of the defense.

CRACKS appear on the main highway of Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental.

SHOPPERS, tenants and employees rush out of an Iloilo City mall after a powerful earthquake hit the city on Monday.

Tsunami warning triggers stampede

From page A1

water were swept to nowhere though the historical landmark was more than a kilometer away from the sea where a tsunami could have originated.

The wave apparently was triggered by a preliminary tremor alert issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) that advised people living in the coastline to be vigilant of any rise in the water level. It was lowered to alert 1.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was no danger of a widespread destructive tsunami.

Coast Guard directive

In Manila, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) immediately suspended the movement of all ship and other water vessels over some parts of Visayas and Northern Mindanao following the Phivolcs alert.

"We have directed our units and localities any ship and other water craft to sail or to venture out in sea while the tsunami alert is still raised," the PCG commandant, Vice Adm. Edmundo Pena Jr., said.

All PCG units in the area of the earthquake were directed to issue tsunami warnings to coastal barangays of Negros Oriental and Cebu, Tan said.

The reports suddenly spread through individual text messages that sweeter had reached Cebu in downtown Cebu and SM City in the North Reclamation Area.

Minutes later, scores of people were running in panic at Fuente Osmeña, Capitol Area, outside Ayala Center Cebu, V. Rama Avenue and in Barangays Guadalupe, Tisa and Banilad. Heavy guests scrambled to higher floors, according to Agence France-Presse.

Many people refused whether the calls were true or not because our first instinct was to go to higher ground," Hontanaga said.

Prayers to Sto. Niño

He said he followed a throng of people inside the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño to pray for protection. "I told myself that if Sto. Niño would allow a tsunami to hit the city at least I am in His house," he said.

Rep. Tomas Osmeña of the 3rd district of Cebu sent an air to media stations dyLA and dyRB to tell the people to calm down. He explained that it was impossible for the city to be hit by tsunami like what happened in Japan last year.

Traffic along major avenues in Cebu City could not pass through. Several cars were seen going up to the motorists' hotspots.

Five accidents at South Coastal Road, MJ Cuenco Avenue and C. Padilla Street were recorded after motorists defied the traffic flow.

Some people on the street were praying the rosary. Others were crying.

"There is news going around of tsunami waves, so we are doing our best to keep everybody calm," said Sarki Dejino, a spokesperson for the 17-story Parklane International Hotel.

"We are completely safe inside the hotel, but we could see people on the streets making away from the area," he added.

Pedro Subiaturan, a student in Cebu, said he saw many office workers in downtown Cebu leaving their buildings after a public announcement on radio warned people to brace for expected tsunami waves.

"I was having lunch when the ground shook. Water spilled from glasses and plates climbed. Some of the diners rushed outside, some of us stayed underneath the tables," he said.

Cops, too

RJ Lechido, 28, a public utility jeepney driver, said he asked someone what happened and was told that a tsunami was coming to hit Cebu. He considered that unfounded paliscuss on board motorcycles were in the crowd, he followed them to evacuate Busay Hills, a hilly portion of the barangay.

"After would not be warned of a tsunami, I don't want to be among those who would drown," Lechido said.

RJ Lechido of SM City and that when the earthquake hit at 12:49 a.m., the management had advised shoppers to leave the building first while it secures. "We resumed normal operations at 1 p.m. There was no reported injury or damage to property," he said.

Buildings managed by Cebu Holdings Inc. and most of those in the Ayala Center, the Cebu Business Park and Cebu IT Park—were emptied after the earthquake.

"We did initial building assessments before people were allowed to return," Eliseo Limkaichong, head of Cebu Holdings' property management, said in a statement. "So far, we have not received information of damages or injury to personnel."

Stranded commuters

The panic eventually subsided, but people found themselves walking to get home because few jeepneys were plying their routes.

Mayor Mike Rama ordered the deployment of city-owned buses to keep the stranded passengers.

In Carcar City, about 300 families living in the coastal areas of Barangay Perdon were brought to Perdon Elementary School and Carcar Talentino, a barangay councilor.

She said the evacuation at Bo. Dumgoon and Aupagan was ordered by Mayor Mariposa Aquia.

Talentino said the families would be allowed to return to their homes on Tuesday to ensure their safety. Reports from Editor delos Angeles, Shannon Nepalforan and Connie E. Fernandez, Inquirer Visayas Jaime R. Ty in Manila, and AFP

Quake kills 52 in Negros

From page A1

Rescuers dug with picks and shovels trying to reach dozens of people trapped under houses that collapsed, according to The Associated Press (AP).

Five others died due to a landslide at the Guihulngan national road, Reyes said.

Gov. Roel Degamo said a 9-year-old girl, Bernadette Bandon, died when a wall collapsed in Tayasan town.

Twelve other fatalities were listed by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Eight were from Guihulngan, one each from Jimalalud and Bindoy towns, and seven from Tayasan.

The earthquakes, which struck at 11:49 a.m., was located 5 kilometers northwest of Tayasan town in Negros Oriental, and was tectonic in origin. It had a depth of 16 km. The US Geological Survey placed the magnitude at 6.7.

In Manila, Malacañang urged the people affected by the earthquake to remain watchful and calm, and to cooperate with the authorities "while the threat of subsequent dangers appears to have passed."

President Aquino ordered the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to assess and collate the extent of the damage and casualties and to provide the necessary interventions, his spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said in a statement.

Tsunami warning

The quake also prompted a tsunami warning from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), alerting residents near the coastal areas of Negros and Cebu to watch for unusual waves but not requiring any evacuation.

The alert was canceled after no further reports of unusual sea level changes were received after the two-hour extended observation period.

But more aftershocks could be expected in the next few weeks to areas near the epicenter, according to Ishmael Narag, officer in charge of the Phivolcs' seismology division. As of 1 p.m. yesterday, Phivolcs had recorded 16 aftershocks.

The quake triggered another landslide in the mountain village of Balungan in La Libertad town, also in Negros Oriental. An unknown number of people were trapped, said Insp. Eric Ian Bonoan, the town police chief.

"We're now getting shovels and chainsaws to start a rescue because there were people trapped inside. Some of them were yelling for help earlier," Bonoan told AP by phone. There are boys bridges to the town's center and more are no longer passable, he said.

The earthquake sent shoppers scrambling under tables and windows and students rushing out of their buildings in central Negros and Cebu.

Classes in all public and private schools in Negros Oriental were suspended, while businesses in Dumaguete City were closed.

Building cracks

In Negros Occidental, the earthquake caused cracks in the city halls of Sagay and Cadiz, and the city hospital and gymnasium of Bacolod.

Big waves damaged two piers and an embankment built on the side in Barangay Manila, La Libertad, according to Mayor Lawrence Limbaching. Two houses were also reported damaged in the town of Jimalalud, some 100 kilometers north of Guihulngan.

Huge waves washed out five bamboo and wooden carriages from a beach resort in La Libertad, but there were no reports of injuries, said Supt. Ernesto Tagle. Elsewhere along the coast, people rushed out of schools, malls and offices.

Two people died in another town close to the epicenter, Tayasan, including a child when a concrete fence of a house collapsed, said Nestor Ramos, head of the Office of Civil Defense.

Church wall collapse

Another child was killed in a church when a wall collapsed during a funeral in Negros Oriental's Jimalalud town, Mayor Benjamin Taneda said.

Tayasan police officer Alfred Vicente Mirasol told AP by phone that aftershocks were preventing people from returning to their homes.

"We are outside, at the town plaza. We cannot inspect buildings yet because it's dangerous," Mirasol said. "I felt the building shaking, so I rushed out of the building. Our computers, shelves, plates, the cupboards, were dispersed all fell."

A three-story office building also collapsed in La Libertad, but occupants escaped.

Scared cops

The Negros Oriental police chief, Edward Carreon, said police had rushed out of his building when the quake struck. "All my personnel ran out fearing our building would collapse," he said.

"Your it's shaking again," he said as an aftershock hit. "My keychain is dancing."

In Negros Occidental, installed City Mayor Evelio Leonardia ordered the suspension of work and classes in all public and private offices and institutions. He, however, directed the city's disaster team to be on alert and to inspect buildings for cracks.

In Iloilo City, employees and students rushed out of offices and classrooms as buildings swayed. Classes in the city and province were suspended in anticipation of aftershocks. Government employees were sent home in the afternoon.

A blackout occurred in the city, but power was normalized at 2:40 p.m.

The earthquake was slightly felt in Boracay Island and a few Mindanao and Luzon provinces.

Medical attention

Guihulngan Mayor Reyes said about 100 people were injured and brought for treatment to Guihulngan District Hospital and neighboring district hospitals.

Reyes said Guihulngan had about 138 patients who are in need of immediate medical attention. "We need to transport these patients to Bacolod, Cebu or Dumaguete but our roads and bridges are impassable," he said.

Food and medicines were rushing in the provincial capitol of Dumaguete, but the aid could not reach the villages in need because of damaged roads and bridges.

"There is a Canadian and an Indian doctor who are here for an earlier scheduled medical mission and it's a good thing they are helping out," Reyes said.

They have some medicines with them but that may not be enough."

All bridges and roads leading to the north and south of the city were damaged, leaving it isolated by land. There is talk of the bridges of Manila in La Libertad, Pangalan in Jimalalud town, and Tampocon in Guihulngan.

Many buildings were damaged, he said. "The Landbank building is leaning, we saw cracks while a portion of our public market collapsed."

Cracks appeared along sections of the national highway and on public and private buildings, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in a statement.

Series of quakes

The first earthquake occurred at 11:49 a.m. with a magnitude of 6.8 and a depth of 20 km. The epicenter was located 72 km north of Dumaguete, 34 km east-northeast of Sightlinan City and 40 km northeast of Cebu.

A second tremor hit minutes later at 12:49 p.m. with a magnitude of 6.7 and a depth of 19.8 km. The epicenter was located 65 km north of Dumaguete, 69 km west-northwest of Tagbilaran and 84 km southwest of Cebu.

Still, a third tremor was felt at 12:52 p.m. with a magnitude of 4.6 and a depth of 34.6 km. The epicenter was located 71 km south-southeast of Surallal City, 89 km west-northwest of Cebu and 84 km north of Dumaguete City.

Bobby Galicto of the local Phivolcs station in Palo town in Leyte said that the series of earthquakes felt in the region was caused by the movement of the Philippine Sea Plate driving down under eastern Philippines along the Philippine Trench.

Erik report from Jhoanna Ruth Napallacan, Carla Gomez and Nestor Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas; Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila; and AFP

Expert insists Pestaño death was suicide

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

A FORENSIC expert who investigated the death of Navy Ensign Philip Pestaño ahead a Navy ship in 1995 said that the officer's family had "falsified the facts to suit their conclusion" that Pestaño had been murdered.

Forensic pathologist Dr. Raquel del Rosario-Fortun said she stood by her findings in 1995 after she was hired by the Pestaños to review the official findings, and Pestaño had shot himself inside his cabin aboard the BRP Bacolod City on Sept. 27, 1995.

When she gave her report, she said Pestaños' parents Felipe and Evelyn rejected it because "they already had a conclusion," and that she was revoked "to prove that it was not a suicide."

Fortun said the Ombudsman did not cite any new evidence but rehashed the interpretation given by an American "expert" hired by the Pestaño family "to say what they want to hear."

The Ombudsman mainly relied on the opinion of Wayne Hill Jr., an American self-proclaimed forensic specialist who advertises his services on the Internet.

Fortun's report based on the autopsy and the facts were "misinterpreted" by Hill who she said was not a forensic pathologist.

She said the Ombudsman used Hill's claim that the commotion on Pestaño's head was caused by a blunt object and a laceration in his left ear misnamed bullet gray.

But according to Fortun, the two contusions that were a size smaller than the bullet hole and the ear laceration were related to the gunshot wound.

"Based on the mechanism of how a bullet destroys tissue, the contusion is what is called a muzzle imprint. And then the injury near the (bullet) exit near the ear, that is what you call a laceration that is probably from the gases of the bullet exit," Fortun said.

But the lawyer of the Pestaño family yesterday disputed Fortun's claim, saying that the 1995 Senate investigation into Pestaño's death discredited Fortun's testimony on behalf of the Philippine Navy.

"If you look at the Senate committee report, she was discredited as an expert witness of the Philippine Navy. She submitted that of the time she did not have enough experience in examining cases similar to Philip's case," lawyer Raoul Baguyo said in an interview.

Baguyo said Fortun had tried to make it appear that she was a "impressionist forensic expert" knowledgeable in Fields like bullet and hand-writing when she was not.

Against Fortun's late testimony, Baguyo said, four modern legal experts and two ballistics experts trained by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation agreed that Pestaño's death was not a suicide.

"Most (of these experts) agreed that there was foul play," Baguyo said.

Court defers Abalos arraignment

By Miko Morales

THE PASAY City Regional Trial Court has postponed the arraignment of fugitive Commissioner Virgilio Demaisip (Comelec) Chair Sixto Jamir Abalos to March 5 after his lawyers sought to have the charges of electoral sabotage dismissed.

Judge Eugenio de la Cruz of RTC Branch 117 gave Comelec prosecutors Estelamor Bautista-Velasco a deadline which his lawyer Brigida Dulay filed on Friday. Abalos has argued that the case against him was without basis.

"The motion in quash is effectively a nail in dismissal the charges because it is baseless," Dulay explained to reporters, adding that if it had any merit, the case "should have been filed before the Sandiganbayan, not in the regional trial court."

Mica prosecutors filed their comment on Abalos' pleading. De la Cruz told Dulay to submit their own comment before the judge resolved the matter.

Abalos is charged with 11 counts of electoral sabotage for allegedly manipulating the election results in South Cotabato, together with provincial election supervisor Liberato Bulan, in 2007.

Abalos purportedly ordered Bulan to tamper with the voter list for administration senatorial bets Juan Ponce Enrile, Edgardo Angara, Ralph Recto, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Panfilo Lacson, Manuel Villar Jr., Tito Sotto, Vicente Magsaysay, Teofisto Guingona Jr., Juan Miguel Zubiri and Luis Singson, and for opposition candidate Loren Legarda.

Abalos is also facing another electoral sabotage case in Pasay City RTC branch 112.

In Mandaluyong City, Mayor Benhur Abalos reiterated his appeal for house arrest for his father, saying that the latter was old and had hypertension.

A brief tribute video on Abalos, a former mayor of the city shown yesterday during Benhur's state of the city address, made city hall employees and residents cry.

Employees, residents and members of Abalos' family wear the image of the Mandaluyong gymnastics arena wearing masks while the video clip was being played. With a report from Mike Gallopo

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Correction

IN THE FEB. 1 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"2 women fight over tagay's body"—misstated the date of birth of Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo. He was born on Oct. 29, 1959—not July 15, 1956.

Readers may send their requests for correction of typographical errors in the day's issue, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 185 Salcedo, Makati City, fax no. 896-6035, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph or info.ncr@inquirer.com.ph. Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Public Editor. E-mail address: publiceditor@inquirer.com.ph or fax No. 896-6035. No. 896-6035. The phone number is 897-2000 (ext. 388)

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday - February 7, 2012
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 KINGS 8:1, 22-30

Solomon stood before the altar of Yahweh in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, he raised his hands towards heaven and said, "O Yahweh, God of Israel, there is no God like you either in heaven or on earth! You keep your covenant and show loving kindness to your servants who walk before you wholeheartedly.

But will God really live among people on earth? If neither heaven nor the highest heavens can contain you, how much less can this house which I have built!

Yet, listen to the prayer and supplication of your servant, O Yahweh my God, hearken to the cries and pleas which your servant directs to you this day. Watch over this House of which you have said, 'My name shall rest there.' Hear the prayer of your servant in this place.

Listen to the supplication of your servant and your people Israel when they pray in this direction. Listen from your dwelling place in heaven and, on listening, forgive.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-13

One day the Pharisees gathered around Jesus and with them were some teachers of the Law who had just come from Jerusalem.

They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their food with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. Now the Pharisees, and indeed all the Jews, never eat without washing their hands for they follow the tradition received from their ancestors. Nor do they ever buy anything when they come from the market without first washing themselves. And there are many other traditions they observe: for example, the ritual washing of cups, pots and plates. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked him, "Why do your disciples not follow the traditions of the elders, but eat with unclean hands?"

Jesus answered, "You, shallow people that you are! Isaiah prophesied of you when he wrote: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, for what they teach are only human rules. You even put aside the commandment of God to hold fast to human traditions."

And Jesus commented, "You have a fine way of disregarding the commandments of God in order to implant your own traditions. For example, Moses said: for your duty to your father and your mother; and: Whoever curses his father or his mother is to be put to death. But according to you someone could say to his father or mother: 'I already declared (what, which means "offered to God," what you could have expected from me,' let this pass, you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. So you nullify the word of God through the tradition you have handed on. And you do many other things like that."

Reflection

Why, the words of Jesus in bottom mean "All." Anything brought to the Temple treasury was useless for others and could never again be put to secular use. Now, evidently one might say to his parents, 'Hey (insult or expression), anything I have by me, I now declare corban!' To repeat, there was no longer bound to help or support them in any way. You are under God's commandment (to help and honor your parents," Jesus said, "in order to implant your traditions (corban)." An all-out war against God, religious leaders versus—not with God, God seems not concerned with their conflicts, and is therefore unpredictable. Love just muddles the field for lawyers.

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P-Noy says SolGen to focus on BF case

By Christine G. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said he wanted the new, incoming solicitor general—whom a senior aide said would be Deputy Ombudsman Francis Jardeleza—to prioritize the government's new move in connection with a Court of Appeals ruling on the Bases Filipino (BF) case.

Mr. Aquino said he was persuaded by the order of the appellate court to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to infuse P33 billion into Philippine Savings Bank.

"That inflation is not a joke, especially since the allegation is [the bank] was mismanaged—mismanaged very badly at that," Mr. Aquino said.

Earlier yesterday, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. told reporters that Jardeleza would replace resigned Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz and that Jardeleza would probably assume his new post on Friday after winding up his affairs at the Office of the Ombudsman.

All Mr. Aquino would say on the subject was that he would announce his choice as Cadiz's successor "at the appropriate time."

He said he wanted the new solicitor general to focus on pending cases and that "high on my list right now" was the appellate court's ruling on the case of Bases Filipino, which has been placed under receivership.

OOPS! President Aquino (center) and company coach Jagjeede as a check falls on the floor during the ceremonial turnover of dividend checks from government-owned and -controlled corporations. With the Presidente are, from left, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Vice President Jejomar Binay, BCDA president and CEO Arnel Paciano Casanova and BCDA Chair Felix de los Reyes.

Prior agreement

Speaking to reporters after attending the 111th founding anniversary of the Bureau of Customs, Mr. Aquino said Cadiz's resignation was part of their agreement that the latter would go back to the private sector after helping him set up government.

He said Cadiz joined his administration in government "for love of country," but with the intention of serving for just two years.

"[Cadiz] has also plans for himself so that a de facto[sic] reason that he has rendered his resignation. He has certain plans that I will leave it up to him to announce," Mr. Aquino said. "He needs more time to attend to those things and I am grateful he gave us those to-two years of service."

Time to go

In a prepared statement, the President praised Cadiz for his "dedication and zeal" in his job.

"He can look back at his time in office as one in which the foundations for a reinvigorated Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) have been laid," Mr. Aquino said.

He cited Cadiz's success in affirming the dismissal of the Pidacs chain against the government last year.

"I thank Attorney Cadiz for his loyalty and dedication, not just to the administration but for upholding the interests of the Filipino people," Mr. Aquino said.

Saying the time had come for him to leave the public stage, Cadiz said he resigned because he wanted to go back to private practice and not because of controversial cases, like the agrarian reform case involving the Hacienda Luisita sugarcane plantation owned by the Aquino family.

Not serious

Under Cadiz, the OSG had been consistent in supporting moves to distribute Hacienda Luisita lands to its farmers. Cadiz had been quick to point out that this showed that the President was not intervening to protect his family's interests.

Some militants claim it was Cadiz's support for the military's seizure of Hacienda Luisita that cost him his job.

"[There is] no issue there," Cadiz said. "From the start, I [intended] that I would be in government for a limited period only. So, 'time-in, time-out' to go back to private practice."

He also said the President had assured the OSG to handle the Bases Filipino case but that the BSP had its own lawyers.

"[It] may weaken the OSG but BSP is independent," Cadiz said.

Asked if he still supported the Aquino administration, Cadiz said: "Yes, wholeheartedly."

No rest day when P-Noy turns 52

From page A1

foundations. I will not make any wish anymore."

Mr. Aquino said he would be thankful if his birthday would be quiet and marked with fewer concerns than usual, as he ratified on many issues facing the country.

"But if not, I'm still ready [to face them]," he said.

Working day

Anyway, tomorrow will still be "the worst day" for him—a working day.

The President said he intended to "work fully" and spend tomorrow night "as often matters that need my attention."

It would be the second time Mr. Aquino will be celebrating his birthday as President.

"If there will be some people who would pray for me, thank you. If there will be some people who would curse me, that's how it is. I have no day off on my birthday, thank you," he said.

Asked whether he expected to have a perfect Valentine's Day next week, the President couldn't help but laugh, again only to caution the import of the question.—*with additional reporting from Marlon Ramos*

He pointed out that he always tried to prepare his answers to media questions but that this particular query put his preparations to waste.

"So can we just switch and wait whether something will happen or not instead of planning for nothing, don't you think so? Let's just wait 2012 And happy Valentine's to all," the President said.

OFWs who defied work ban may be legalized–Baldoz

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO GIVE Filipinos who left the country illegally to work abroad a chance to return home to see their children graduate in March, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said yesterday the government was reviewing its policy banning them from returning home legally.

Baldoz said she would form the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to "closely review the policy that was initiated by former labor secretary and now Supreme Court Associate Justice Arturo Brion."

"I'm thinking about convening a joint POEA and Owwa board meeting to review this deployment order to avoid closing the door of Secretary Brion which disallows a legalize or an undocumented worker from becoming legal or documented workers," Baldoz said in a text message.

She said the review would be "in the spirit" of the bilateral agreements Manila signed recently with Jordan and Lebanon on the protection of OFWs' rights while normalizing labor relations with the two countries.

Brion assured that Department of Labor Undersecretary Zenaida Cruz will work on this immediately and present it to the POEA and Owwa boards," Baldoz said.

The labor chief made the statement after Filipino nurses working in Beirut asked Baldoz to give undocumented OFWs there—those who entered Lebanon after the total deployment ban took effect—the chance to come home to attend their children's graduation.

"Most of the OFWs here are over eager to go home and see their children graduate. Our main concern is that our undocumented countrymates would at least be given passes to allow them to visit their families and return here," said Gerald Cabanatan, a 10-year overseas community leader in Beirut.

Cabanatan said he and other OFWs who arrived in Lebanon before the total deployment ban was imposed on June 18, 2007, were given passes that allowed them to return after vacationing at in the Philippines.

However, those who arrived after the ban was imposed lose that they would not be able to return to Lebanon if they leave for the Philippines.

"This will be studied by the DOLE governing board to see if the time has come to change this policy so that those who have not been present it to the longer they would not have a hard time visiting the country," said Undersecretary Cruz.

Cabanatan said there were an estimated 25,000 OFWs in Lebanon when the total deployment ban was imposed but that number has increased to around 50,000 with the continued influx of undocumented OFWs.

DFA mulls taking mobile passport program south

AFTER Batanes in the north, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is mulling the possibility of conducting its mobile "consular outreach" or mobile electronic passport processing program to Tawi-Tawi, the southernmost province, and other remote parts of the country's 7,107 island chain.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said over the weekend that they "do not yet have a consular outreach program in Tawi-Tawi."

"But our regional consular offices in Zamboanga City and Cotabato City have been asked to cooperate in Sulu[sic] to serve the region," including Tawi-Tawi and the neighboring island provinces of Basilan and Sulu, Del Rosario told the Inquirer as he stressed the need to bring DFA services closer to the people.

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said that while there was "no schedule yet for mobile passport services in Tawi-Tawi, we should be able to offer such services in various parts of the country to enable the DFA to reach out to our people wherever they are."

Foreign Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Jaime Victor Ledda explained that "mobile passport services are organized city by city, upon the request of local government units."

"The DFA's Office of Consular Affairs or the nearest regional office coordinates the schedule, logistics and other arrangements with them," Ledda said.

According to the DFA head, the agency currently operates 21 processing centers nationwide.

"We have two centers in the National Capital Region...one at the DFA main office and the other at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration office [in Mandaluyong City]. We also process passports in our regional offices in San Fernando, La Union; San Fernando and Cebu, Pampanga; and the cities of Baguio, Tuguegarao, Laoag, Batangas, Legazpi, Puerto Princesa, Iloilo, Roxas, Bacolod, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Davao, General Santos, Zamboanga and Zamboanga," said Ledda. Jerry E. Esplanada

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OPINION

Decriminalize libel

SENATE PRESIDENT Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada last week pushed for the passage of his measure that would decriminalize libel. He said that while it is the right of individuals to be protected from unethical and irresponsible journalism, imprisonment is not a just penalty in such cases. Civil damages, he said, may be a sufficient penalty and deterrent, considering the economic situation of journalists.

EDITORIAL

Normally, we would support the measure in its entirety. We believe it's high time a law that has had a chilling effect on journalism was removed from the statute books. But instead we should not entirely decriminalize libel but support a middle ground similar to the proposal made by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza in 2008.

Justice Mendoza's compromise formula would balance the freedom of the press and the right of an individual to seek redress by making a distinction between "political libel" and "private libel." In the case of government officials and public figures, he suggested that the libel law be amended to place the burden of proving malice on the complainant. But with respect to private libel, he said, "the law should be preserved out of regard for the values of reputation and privacy."

We support particularly the decriminalization of libel with respect to political libel, or libel allegedly committed against public officials and public figures. Why decriminalize political libel?

- Because it would uphold the freedom of expression and the press enshrined in the Constitution and in international agreements, like the UN Declaration of Human Rights, to which the Philippines is a party.
- Because it would enable journalists to perform their duty to report and criticize official actions without fear of censorship or prosecution.
- Because the libel law does not distinguish between speech exercised in pursuit of political ends and speech that is of public concern, as against speech of which the public has no concern.
- Because the person or entity allegedly libeled has a legal remedy: they can file a civil action for damages. In some cases, the damages awarded can bankrupt a media organization.)

Early this year, the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists hailed as a triumph for free expression and press freedom the declaration of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, adopted during the 103rd session of the United Nations, that the Philippines' Revised Penal Code penalizing libel as a criminal offense is "incompatible with Article 19, Paragraph three of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which the Philippines is a signatory."

The move to decriminalize libel is growing. Ten countries now have no criminal defamation laws. Fourteen countries have initiated decriminalization of libel, including France, Croatia and Ivory Coast which impose fines only. In the United States, 31 states have no libel laws; only 17 have laws against libel.

We have seen how the libel law was used by the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as a weapon to go after journalists who wrote critical stories about her and her administration. In 2006, her husband, Mike Arroyo, filed a string of libel cases against 43 journalists, only to drop them later after he recovered from a life-threatening operation.

Senator Pimentel Magnates filed a libel case against Alex Adonis who had reported on his candle penguins in 2006 that Magnates had run out of his hotel rooms naked when the husband of the woman he allegedly spent the night with showed up. Adonis was convicted and sentenced to a prison term of four years. He questioned the decision before the United Nations Human Rights Committee after he had served two years. The UNHRC has urged the Philippine government to compensate Adonis for time served in prison.

Last month the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said that it is now up to the government to take steps to decriminalize political libel, to cause the dismissal of pending cases of criminal libel and to compensate Adonis and other journalists who have been imprisoned under the provisions of the libel law. We endorse the call of the CMFR, the proposal of retired Justice Mendoza, and hope that political libel would once and for all be decriminalized to give the media the widest latitude of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

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Stark contrast

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

BY THE runup to the 26th anniversary of People Power this month, the contrast couldn't be starker.

Not a life was lost when Filipinos toppled the Marcos dictatorship in peaceful demonstrations. Cell phones were the "weapons of choice" in People Power 2 which ousted a flawed Joseph Estrada in 2001.

In Syria, over 5,000 have been killed while demonstrating for freedom over the last eight months. And more will die.

Russia and China, in the Security Council, vetoed Friday an Arab League and Western power(s) resolution calling on President Bashar al-Assad to step down and end repression of his own people.

"The disappointment was all the deeper because this was the second double veto on Syria," already responded from the Arab League side, reported. "This time, agreement had seemed possible."

This backdrop is why we'd like to hear yet another year with columnist Bobi Tiglao wax on Arroyo's "People Power spent allowed us to move forward." Is that so?

Pedia and Company today enjoy a luxurious penal right to sniff at People Power. But who hatted the bill for today's pious freedom? Among other people, journalists imprisoned for battling martial law.

"Bonus mulcted" from "Presidential Times" Joaquin "Chino" Roces, Philippines Free Press' Teodoro Locsin Sr., the Kanlaon Jose Burgos, Daily Mirror's Amando Doronila. Add 43 other newspaper reporters whose bodies riddled body sprawled on Manila streets' tarmac. Benigno against it.

"People Power born is viewed through Old Jewish prisms," Viewpoint noted as People Power's 25th anniversary "media Marcos and Pro dissed A swift at the Pro Pet Cory Speechwriter. Being cloaked into exile for unbridled greed seems a bit double standard.

Journalists must remind people of what they prefer to forget, columnist and Judge Ernesto Donaldson wrote in "Speak Memory." Battling amnesia, in the end, is "the struggle of man against tyranny."

Ironically, it's the "post-modern coup d'etat," scholars tell us, but Filipinos were not the first to oust thrones in the pre-based nations. In 1930, Mohandas Gandhi led a 240-mile march to protest the British salt tax.

The first non-violence internal, mass-based, anti-tyrant happened on a build Bill dubbed "The Shell." Soldiers three cast few for the robe of an executed man who fought "When slapped, offer your other cheek."

From Selma, peaceful "cracks from below" ignited second hurdled. Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago" engulfed Russian readers. Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Uprising," Ukraine's "Orange Revolution" and Georgia's "Rose Rebellion" spurred contentious. Blessed John Paul II, in 1980, hailed fielding by workers against Polish martial law enforcers and Soviet overseers.

The Arab Spring (a.k.a. People Power) engulfed decades-behind Asia and Europe. A retailer, who set himself ablaze, sparked Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution in December 2010. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, long-anointed, a la Ugandan's Idi Amin, into Saudi Arabian exile.

But Arab people power spread with a speed most regimes didn't anticipate. Internet, cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, etc. "for the first time provided activists with an opportunity to quickly disseminate information while bypassing government restrictions," Hussein Ibish of American University in Cairo, told AFP.

"The region's two latest regimes quickly understood the threat posed by social networking sites. They shut down Internet in Egypt, Libya and Syria."

Within two months, Hosni Mubarak's 30-year iron-fisted rule crumbled. for easy four decades, Moammar Gadhafi befuddled with diplomatic smoke a well-armed tent. "Brother Leader" and Dictator Extraordinaire ended after (radical) was killed in a latex garter.

As a runup for immunity from prosecution, Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down after three decades of corrupt rule. Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir announced he would not seek re-election in 2015. He too says, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose term ends in 2014. Increasingly violent demonstrations demand he quit now.

Jordan's King Abdullah sacked two successive governments to head off unrest. The largest, most organized demonstrations often erupt on a "day of rage," usually Friday after noon prayers at the mosque.

"The Arab Spring is coming," Republican Sen. John McCain told Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dong Zhijun at a Munich conference. "There is no way that you will be able to stifle it completely because of these devices," pointing to a mobile phone.

McCain used the recent self-immolation by three monks to protest Chinese rule in Tibet. Over 16 other Tibetans, mostly Buddhist monks and nuns, set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule.

Tomorrow authors tomorrow smashed the "Saffron Revolution," a la Uzbekistan. "However, Burma's political change in recent months has been breathtaking," notes Prof. Justin Goldwyn.

Myanmar President Thein Sein has April 1 by a striking election to parliament. The regime released 651 more political prisoners. Assn signed to have Burma chair the regional group. The European Union has lifted some sanctions. Burma signed a ceasefire with the Kachin ethnic group.

Ferguson's rigged constitution needs to be overhauled. There is still a long road ahead. But there is no turning back on reforms, says President Thein Sein.

"People power in politics reduced to a mere contest for power between one set of cronies and another," Perla Stella Maggay of the Institute for Studies in Church and Culture wrote. Helen Mandela offered change in South Africa. Cory Aquino presented a stark contrast. She stood for everything Ferdinand Marcos did not.

(Email: jun_mercado77@yahoo.com)

Representations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

1998, BUT of course the prosecution submitted the list of 45 houses apparently belonging to the Justice Corona-the media, Angara insists is right about that. It was Mel Tiglao and company who brought it to the attention of reporters in a press conference. It wasn't admitted, it was generated.

All of which shows what's dangerous, as witness the media frenzy reported on the prosecution by, about the prosecution jumping the gun and presenting evidence to the public before the court. I don't mind that the prosecution explains the evidence it has already presented to the court to the media. Not everyone can follow the proceedings with the same level of interest or intuition to appreciate the nuances, legal or otherwise, of certain documents. But I do mind that the prosecution tries to bolster its case by presenting evidence to the public before the court. Hilbatos ang mga prosecutor's claim of Corona owning 45 houses is true or beside the point. This is not a case of a group making an ordinary report, this is a case of the prosecution making an appeal in connection with a trial. The libertarian, an impartiality court may extend to the parties in the case they want to extend.

It's another matter if media solicit the information, as reporters are wont to do. Or indeed if media make their own inquiries based on their own research. The public can always take their statements as open to challenge, not to falsified truths that carry sanction. From there, you would hope the prosecution would be more guarded or circumspect in their answers. "We hope to show that the Chief Justice has far more houses and condominiums than he declared in his SALN." It's not only for self-protection-the prosecution could have avoided that mess if it had practiced it-it's also for fairness. How you do things is just as important as whether you get to do them or not.

Yes, the defense is all over the prosecution for backtracking on its original proposition that Corona owned 45 houses and condo units and suggesting now that the number is probably not within over half of that. That can only mean, the defense says, that the prosecution, and by extension the administration, was barely above impeaching the Chief Justice.

So it is all. The prosecutors' claim of 45 houses is a lesson only to believe that they exaggerated. It is not a reason to disbelieve Corona lied. So what if it's 24 rather than 45? That makes it acceptable? Corona declared only five houses and condo units, and grossly undervalued them to go by the Tiglao unit. Six houses alone are "not bahay na kubo," the prosecution says, simply above a sixth house, it will have proven Corona falsified his SALN. It will have proven he is not fit to remain Chief Justice.

That brings us to a most crucial point, one that needs resolving before the trial goes any further. That is the question of how much you need to convict Corona to find him fit to continue serving as Chief Justice. The way it stands now, two presumptions are holding sway. One is that in order to convict Corona, he has to be found guilty of a high crime, defined as treason, bribery, graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust, pillage. Two is that the prosecution has to prove all the articles of impeachment, or as in the case of Corona's prosecutors, all the 45 houses/condo units the prosecution originally proposed. Unless these are challenged, it will be the House that will have to do that in order to convict Corona. So far to be found guilty of a high crime, defined as treason, betrayal of public trust, pillage. Two is that the prosecution has to prove all the articles of impeachment, or as in the case of Corona's prosecutors, all the 45 houses/condo units the prosecution originally proposed. Unless these are challenged, it will be the House that will have to do that in order to convict Corona. So far to be found guilty of a high crime, defined as treason, betrayal of public trust, pillage. Then

Free lunches and non-inclusive growth

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

"ROLLS-ROYCE brands sales record in 2011, first hit up 27 percent," blares a headline in a website devoted to cars. "Luxury car sales speed ahead," echoes a CNN titler. There's got to be something wrong when sales of super luxury automobiles have been shooting up just when much of the world economy—especially the US—is experiencing such brisk luxury car sales—is supposedly reeling from crisis. And set that is exactly what has been happening lately. Last year, Rolls-Royce sold 3,538 cars around the world, 27 percent up in its 107-year history, up 21 percent over 2010's sales, which was in turn a record year. It's not just Rolls-Royce's sales. Other global financial markets tumbled in 2008, precipitating an economic downturn. Rolls-Royce sales actually shot up 30 percent on the heels of five successive years of growth. During World War II,

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Fairness and impartiality

LETTERS

WHEN OUR senators perform the task of judges in an impeachment case, they are not serving as a legislative body; their function is not to make laws but to perform their constitutional mandate as "the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment." Such function would be unrelated to the work of the members of Congress when they convene as a National Board of Canvassers (NBC)—to count the votes cast for the candidates for president and vice president.

Amid some calls for senator-judges to be fair and impartial in the ongoing impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona, the swelling separate opinion of Senate Chief Justice Reynato Puno, in a case that involved the canvass of votes in the 2004 election of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is very persuasive and appropriate. Perceived by some political observers that the 2004 NBC, then headed by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Majority Floor Leader Francisco Pimentel, was biased and partisan in favor of Arroyo, Puno reminded the legal profession the opinion of the court should "not be done in a casual manner" since the laws and the rules "look upon their role as undertaking the resolution where confronting the canvass."

Puno clarified that the NBC is "not sharing as a nonjudicial body," hence, the legislators should discharge their function "with fairness and impartiality" in order to avoid an "inharmonious" and prejudged body.

Aniel, in other words, Puno said, "lawmakers, when canvassing votes, should keep their eyes open but should shut them off to any political light."

And so it should be in the impeachment case against Corona. He and should not be condemned in a "robotic manner." The senators sitting as judges are not meeting as lawmakers but to determine the guilt or innocence of the impeached Chief Justice. Thus, paraphrasing the scholarly views of Puno, our senator-judges are called upon to exercise their discretion with fairness and impartiality to the end that an unwillingness judgment is arrived at which full assurance that the constitutional rights of the impeached official are observed and protected. These constitutional rights are not suspended during the impeachment trial.

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL
Independent analyst,
Corona impeachment trial, Las Piñas City

Audit barangay officials' performance

EVER NOISIER now sometimes the sounds drowsy complete against rest and screamer hometowns you try to be, your day goes from bad to worse.

One morning, our family was rudely awakened by the news that our water meter was stolen in the middle of the night. I ran free with making up to the electricity, but having no water to shower or brush our teeth in the morning is a different story altogether.

We called Manila Water to request a replacement and was informed that we had to get a certificate of loss from our barangay captain (of barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City), before it can proceed with the replacement.

As the barangay captain's office, we were informed to return at 3 p.m. because the staff assigned with the "inquiries" were still asleep from late night partying at a bistro. In other words, these people who were supposed to help us could not issue the necessary papers because they were literally sleeping on the job, in office among our time and taxpayers' money. When we insisted on the urgency of issuing the documents, even informing them that we had already called Manila Water to replace the meter, the incompetent staffer replied, "Call back Manila Water and tell them to issue after 12 p.m. because that's the only time the captain can sign the papers."

The arrogant response, not to mention the shabby treatment, from a lowly official of the barangay is a reflection of how incompetent people are voted into office and get to enjoy public money without doing anything at all. These are the same people who have slept on their job after cowardly murders of city worker death in our barangay have officials like these, how can anyone feel safe?

May I call on San Juan City Mayor Eras Gomez to make a performance audit of the barangay officials in San Juan to jolt them back into actually doing some good for the municipality!

—NOEL ABAD,
noeld6@gmail.com

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Big nickel mining firm says rains caused pollution of bay

By Franklin A. Caligat
Inquirer Mindanao

BUTUAN CITY – A large-scale nickel mining firm has disputed charges that its operations had polluted the waters of Claver Bay in Claver, Surigao del Norte, blaming torrential rains for the mess.

"The waters may be discolored, but it does not mean it [bay] is already polluted," said Rogel Cabanatan, manager for environmental safety, health and security of Taganito Mining Corp. (TMC). "The reported pollution is not due to siltation from our mining operations but because of rains, a natural phenomenon."

One of the country's leading exporters of nickel ore, TMC and three other big mining companies based in the Caraga region are being investigated by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) for alleged violations of environmental and health hazard laws, particularly massive siltation and pollution in Claver Bay.

Cabanatan said his firm was strictly adhering to government regulatory measures in no-let-up mining, environmental and health standards are concerned. "In fact, our water quality levels are within DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) standards," he said.

"As far as TMC is concerned, it is always compliant with environment standards and regulations," he told the Inquirer.

On Friday, Mines and Geosciences Director Leo Jasareno conducted an aerial survey of TMC's mine sites. He said water pollution caused by siltation was evident in Claver Bay brought about by mining activities in the area.

"I observed that the waters of Claver Bay were colored orange due to siltation. Clearly, there was noncompliance with environmental standards and health hazard laws on the part of the firms," Jasareno told the Inquirer.

He said leakages at the mining containment plants used by the firms for their stockpiled mined ores caused the siltation, which posed serious threats to the environment and the health of people in the communities.

Cabanatan said the discoloration of the waters was inconclusive proof of massive pollution. He attributed it to perpetual rains hitting upland mined areas and naturally flowing downstream toward the bay.

Monitoring teams, composed of MGB officials, environmentalists and nongovernment organizations, and local officials, will be sent to check the plants and, if necessary, recommend sanctions against the erring firms.

The monitoring teams will also look into allegations of nonpayment by mine firms of business fees and taxes to host communities.

The mining industry in Caraga, which is host to more than a dozen multinational mining firms, has been mired in controversies involving charges of environmental devastation, irregularities in the acquisition of mine permits, displacement of indigenous communities and nonpayment of royalties, business fees and taxes.

Jasareno said he would conduct monthly, not quarterly, assessments on firms accused of being noncompliant with environmental standards and laws.

San Roque Metals Inc. (SRMI), which operates a nickel mine on a 1,300-hectare land in Tubay, Agusan del Norte, has been ordered closed for refusing to pay at least P200 million in taxes to the municipality.

Ryan Collins, spokesperson of SRMI, said the nonpayment was justified, citing tax holidays from its mining franchise granted by the national government.

More funds sought for 'Sendong' victims

PEOPLE of Barcelo dressed up in traditional garb welcome 200 amateur photographers who headed the call to volunteer time and document the restoration of centuries-old rice terraces that have eroded through years of mining monsoon rains in Bugnay.

ILIGAN CITY—The United Nations (UN) has asked the international community for more funds to effectively meet the humanitarian challenges in the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Sendong" that lashed this city over a month ago.

From an initial amount of $26.4 million, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-Ocha) is appealing for $39 million in response to "the dramatic increase of needs" of more than 300,000 people over the period of six months.

So far, the agency said $9.6 million had been raised, including $3 million disbursed from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support and reinforce the immediate aftermath of the storm.

Torrential rains brought by Sendong triggered flash floods in 13 provinces on Dec. 16-18 last year. According to UN estimates, nearly 48,000 houses were damaged and 825,000 people lost their livelihood.

More than 550,000 were also forced out of their homes.

Hardest hit were the Northern Mindanao cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, where entire communities were wiped out by rampaging torrents.

Seven weeks after the disaster, some 23,998 survivors remain in recorded evacuation centers in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, and more than 680,000 people continue seeking refuge in makeshift shelters and with host families in other areas of origin, the UN further noted.

Some have returned to their damaged houses in highly hazardous and disaster-prone areas even as the government had already declared these as "no-build" zones.

"Many lives have been saved through our interventions to date, but unless this assistance is sustained and adequate shelter solutions are provided to all the displaced, many will remain vulnerable and unable to sustain themselves and their families," said Jacqui Badcock, UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines.

Badcock urged donors to "back the new response plan and the affected communities of Mindanao generously."

A UN-Ocha news release said the revised appeal, which indicated a $10.6-million rise to outmoded resource needs, contained "an adjusted plan of action developed by the government and aid agencies following a second phase of multi-cluster rapid assessments and sector-specific assessments."

It also considered the current response carried out to date, the agency said.

The revised humanitarian action plan outlined "prioritized provision of assistance" to affected people, whether they are trying to overcome losses, transitional shelters, seeking refuge in makeshift homes or with relatives in areas where their homes used to stand before the disaster.

It further addressed the special needs of "vulnerable groups," such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and people in remote rural areas which have been cut off from the urban hubs and largely underserved in aid provision.

The new appeal includes 46 projects in 13 key sectors, prepared by 15 nongovernment groups, 10 UN agencies and one international organization, the UN-Ocha said.

"I have been tremendously encouraged to witness the tireless efforts of the government, aid organizations, civil society and the affected communities themselves to provide vital assistance to hundreds of thousands of Sendong survivors," Badcock said.

"Sustained, generous financial support is crucial to enable provision of basic goods and services and the rebuilding of resilient communities," she added. *Ryan D. Rimando, Inquirer Mindanao*

200 photographers pick up shovels for rice terraces

BANAUE, Ifugao—Charlie, a farmer, stepped out of his house early Thursday in U-string sweat trousers who may hold the future of the rice terraces in their hands.

More than 200 amateur photographers converged in this remote town, some coming from as far as typhoon-ravaged Cagayan de Oro City, to pick up shovels and help rebuild some of the damaged mud rice terraces on which farmers rely.

They were drawn here by photographer John Cleon, who mounted a photo safari and a "photo vehicle" (photography school) to raise their awareness about the plight of Ifugao's centuries-old terraces, which have eroded through years of seasonally harsh monsoon rains.

They were quickly drawn the damaged terraces and were asked to dig up trenches where the reinforced foundations would be erected.

They took turns photographing the efforts. Photos would be uploaded later in online and other social networking sites to show to the world the conditions of the terraces, Cleon said.

Residents showed up in their finest traditional garb to welcome the volunteers to the first official "Bayanihan," a cooperation program mounted by the provincial government in spectacular destination and support for the conservation work.

Bayanihan's first task area to focus attention to the amphitheaters-like terraces of Bunad, one of five terrace clusters in four Ifugao towns which were enlisted in 1995 as World Heritage Sites, according to Governor Eugenio Balitang.

To reach the damaged areas, the volunteers had to hike for an hour. Many complained of leg cramps as soon as they reached their destination, but they shrugged this off and quickly went to work.

The photographers represented the Pinoy Photographers.org, Black Pencil Project, Canon Advocacy Team, Canon ICP Group, Tita Yik Foundation from Zamboanga, Cebu Images Camera Club, and the Federation of Philippine Photographers.

Ashlee Ford Cruz, next lit dancer in Banaue as part of its commitment to support the restoration project. *Richard Balangbang, with a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Quezon offers projects as incentives to hike realty tax take

By Dollie T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—As part of its efforts to increase realty tax collection, the provincial government has offered suitcases of peace worth of projects, vehicles, classrooms and school equipment to local governments units that meet revenue targets and to property owners who pay correct taxes.

Gov. David Suarez said the tax collection program, dubbed "Dinampas at Sobrang Pabilis ng Bawas Pilong Bunin Mo," aimed to collect about P1.8 billion in real property tax at the village, municipal and provincial levels. It started on Jan. 9 and will end on Dec. 30.

"If this amount will be collected, the delivery of basic services on health, agriculture, education and countryside development will be implemented for the poorest families in the province," he said on Friday.

Suarez lamented that the provincial government was able to collect only some P480 million in realty tax before he assumed office in 2008. Under his administration, the collection rose by 136 percent last year, he said.

He said the tax assessment systems between Capitol and its LGUs must be corrected. Towns and barangays must assess property values differently from the provincial government, he added.

Suarez clarified that the tax campaign was not an offshoot of the failed collection of P6.1 billion in revenue from the Pagbilao professional power plant. Executive Order No. 37, issued by President Aquino last year, empowered the provincial government from collecting the unpaid realty taxes from the plant's operator Team Energy.

The governor urged school officials to join the campaign by encouraging parents of students and community members to pay real property tax as the participating public schools of a winning LGU could also get prizes.

Only towns and villages that would garner 60 percent of their annual tax collection goal may join the contest, Suarez said.

Prizes at the municipal level will be P1 million worth of projects as first prize; P2 million, second prize; and P1 million, third prize. The winning barangays will get as much as P150,000 in prizes.

The participating schools can win a classroom worth P500,000 as first prize; P300,000 worth of desks and tables, second prize; and P200,000 worth of instructional materials, third prize.

The lucky taxpayers can win a brand new van and 13 tricycles that will be raffled off.

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

NLEX seeks crown today

Road Warriors heavily favored

By Jaonica W. Pays

AS DOMINANT as NLEX looked in Game 1, coach Boyet Fernandez thinks his Road Warriors may be in for a hard time when they shoot for a second straight PBA D-League championship today.

The Road Warriors, heavily favored with their virtual all-star semester cast, go for a sweep of Foreign Aces in Game 2 of the Aspirants Cup finals at 3 p.m. at the FEGS-Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"We have to step up again," said Fernandez, whose Road Warriors rolled past the Aces Makers, 73-51, in the opener of their best-of-three title series last Thursday.

"We're not taking Foreign lightly. They're really good, they were just out-of-sync in Game 1. I know they'll be back."

Before the tip-off, the league will award the Best Player of the Conference plum to the top statistical performer and non-game among NLEX's RR Garcia, Foreign's Lester Alvarez and Urbiztondo Distiller's Ido Mumaid.

(SEE TODAY'S PBA SCORES page 19)

Adabi Sore Garcia, the Road Warriors also boast a stronger scoring artillery with Calvin Alvarez, Ian Sangalang, Garvo Lanete, Dave Marcelo, Benjie Obrenida, Emman Monfort, Cliff Hodge and Chris Ellis.

"We can't match up with them in terms of individual skills and athleticism," admitted Foreign coach Leo Isaac. "The only chance we've got is to match their intensity, play smart and play with a lot of heads."

The Jesse Makers struggled Jesse the field in Game 1 when only Alvarez finished in double figures. But Aussie reserve Malcolm Duncan led by Mick Naybet and Eric Cantuco in rebounds, dominated and kept a Game 3 decider.

Fernandez, though, said his troops his Road Warriors to clamp down on defense.

"What we want to do is to dictate on defense and limit the opponent below 70," he said.

CHACK NLEX guard RR Garcia (center) elects to pass after shaking Foreign's John Hayden (right) in Game 1 of the PBA D-League title series.

Donaire hurt left fist in maiden 122 lb fight

By Ray Lauren

DONAIRE

NONITO Donaire Jr. showed he still has the power at 122 pounds, but his hands took a pounding.

This was evident Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) when The Filipino Flash battled out a split decision win over Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. to grab the World Boxing Organization super bantamweight crown in San Antonio, Texas.

In his initial foray into the super bantamweight ranks, Donaire proved his punching might when he became the first man to knock down the Puerto Rican Vazquez in the ninth round, landing a left uppercut followed by his fatal left hook.

That Donaire couldn't finish Vazquez off may be largely due to the left hand injury he sustained somewhere from the second to the fourth rounds of their 12-round showdown at the Alamodome.

Donaire later showed to the media his barely left hand wrap, caused by the swinging of his knuckles, which is mainly due to the recoil impact of every punch he landed on Vazquez.

Initial reports said Donaire, a former flyweight, super bantamweight and featherweight champ, sustained a minor fracture on his fist.

Renowned promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank, however, wants to make sure that the last hand of the world's No. 4 pound-for-pound fighter is well taken care of.

Arum has reportedly hired the best doctors in Alabama and from Donaire's left hand.

The Filipino dominated Vazquez Monday Donaire also suffer hand injuries after a bout in the heavier classes. His hands saved from the sheer number of punches he landed either on his opponent's face or rib cage.

Green Archers' pride shines through

ATTEMPT: Ville Salamat loses possession as a drive-off La Salle's Ryan Arcilla in Sunday's game. AUGUST 26 PHOTO

By Jose Mariano

EVERYBODY had the size, height and greater profusion of accolades combined. But the biggest assistance for La Salle was pride.

It was clearly evident Sunday night when the Green Archers dove down the Blue Eagles, 117-104, in a dazzling match at the Smart Araneta Coliseum that pitted former players of the most compelling college basketball rivalry who now play for different teams in the PBA.

Don Allado, the oldest element on the floor at 32, looked like a spry 25-year-old again, powering the Archers' youth-overflow past Ateneo's massive lineup to win the MVP trophy.

Mac Cardona also made the La Salle community proud, his dexterity in attacking the rim helping the Archers reverse a weeping trend by the Eagles in the UAAP at least in this game.

"We're now even," said the 6-foot-6 Allado, a two-time UAAP MVP when La Salle ruled the league in 1998 and 1999.

"If I say something, I'm going to back it up," added Allado, who, before the game, arrogantly set the opposition with strong words in his Twitter account.

Behind Allado, Carlo Sharma, Arwin Gaco and Ron Manriquez, the Archers shredded the Eagles frontcourt led by the 6-9 Japeth Aguilar, 6-6-to-Rico Villanueva and Paolo Bugia, and point defenders Rich Alvarez, Nonoy Baclao and Doug Kramer.

La Salle grabbed 57 rebounds, 17 of them offensive boards, against Ateneo's 43.

JV Casio, Ryan Arcilla, Mike Cortez, Joseph Yeo and Forrem Hercules also delivered as the Archers came up with a 52-31 personal [44-of-86] shooting slip.

But for the Eagles, it's a big down memory lane.

LA Tenorio starred for the Big Dome with his passing wizardry reminiscent of his rookie days in the Ateneo when he dazzled the Archers in a Game 1 PBL suite victory in 2001.

The streak-shooting Eagles sank three-pointers from his favorite spot in the corner, evoking memories of yesteryear. Nonoy heard breakers during his La Salle days in the late 1990s up to 2001.

Friend with a standing ovation before the start of the game, Arwin's long jumper put the Green team comfortably ahead, 61-48, with 7:44 ticks to go before the half. He pointed to the La Salle faithful and honored all the court on the way to the dugout.

It was an all-Green show after that as coach Franz Pumaren's troops jumped to a 76-point lead in the same game played by the PBA-to-be favorite all-season patriots of the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

The Green squad avenged an 88-85 Ateneo win in another dream game in 2009 manned by eight-homers Villanueva and Yeo.

LA SALLE (117) — Allado 23, Cardona 20, Casio 12, Sharma 12, Gaco 8, Manriquez 6, Yeo 6, Arcilla 5, Cortez 5, Aguilar 5, Bugia 5, Hercules 4, Alvarez 3, Baclao 3, Kramer 2, Ingle 2, Ilagan 0, Lo 0, Gomez 0, Jabonet 0, Dadao 0, Bienvenido 0, Ducusin 0, Bugia 0. Quarters: 29-15; 61-48; 94-75; 117-104.

Altas sweep 'NC' volley

By Cedrolf P. Rapas

SUNSHINE to brilliance, Perpetual Help capped a perfect season with a two-division sweep of the 87th NCAA collegiate volleyball tournaments yesterday at the Filoil Flying V Centre.

Perpetual Help's men's team finished on a 25-14, 25-14, 25-23 win over San Beda for its second straight title.

The Lady Altas later made it a sweep double for the San Pilipas-based school with an emphatic 25-15, 26-24, 25-10 victory over Letran.

The win capped a perfect 14-0 season for the Lady Altas, who also gifted head coach Mike Gallad his first title in 13 years. The Lady Altas' victory also stopped San Sebastian's iron grip on championships over the past decade.

"We, and our players for the great effort, the school is very proud of their accomplishments," said league president and policy board chair Anthony Tarayao, who is also president of Perpetual Help.

THE PERPETUAL Help Altas celebrate their NCAA volleyball victory. AUGUST 26 PHOTO

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Race 1 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 2 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 3 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 4 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 5 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 6 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 7 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 8 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)
Race 9 – (Number) (Name) – (Jockey) – (Trainer)

No doubt Donaire is deadly

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT SHOULD be a double celebration coupled with a bigger welcome for Nonito Donaire Jr., who captured his fourth world boxing crown in Texas on Sunday.

The all-wrestling triumph over feisty Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. of Puerto Rico may not rank as Donaire's best win to date.

In fact, Donaire had scored more sensational triumphs, including the twin knockout against Vic Darchinyan and Fernando Montiel, both waged in Exorcism of the Year.

The crispy conquest scored by Donaire on Sunday, although tainted by periodic clowning, was however oldies in dignified class.

It established him as the strongest, most solid candidate to succeed Manny Pacquiao, as the premier boxing double-role for gift and dedication.

* * *

The bout took all of 12 long rounds but, other than through that ninth-round knockdown, the victory was punctuated by a gamer-long display of brilliance and bravery.

For Vaz, by the way, who once terrorized thousands of miles off Ahmedabad, all the way to Puerto Rico, from where Vazquez's self-posted a message on social network, "saying Donaire was a coward and referring to his country as 'stupid' Philippines."

The cowering idea, there was a startling presence of "Vazquez—very dumb, eyes closed...after tackling a Donaire's left uppercut to the chin. The scene was hysterically ironic. It appeared as though Vazquez was trying to prove as Donaire's mighty glove.

Made to a political statement or not, escape equivocated road: "Who's stupid now?"

* * *

There were other ordinary cops, as Donaire also helped message a national beat counter by the church of this young, undefeated fistic Kingdom, who died after lapsing into a coma as the end of a rugged Aussie fight in Lakeside this other Saturday.

Donaire's big triumph, let's hope, would pave the way of renewed officials to prevent all the possible safeguards, including competent referees and experts, during boxing bouts.

This may not count as a million revelation, but didn't Donaire's dominant victory in the previous also require almost, if not criminal, arms to put-to-fighting?

* * *

The scene submitted by a chief discussing judge, Ruben Guerra, who parked the badly bloated Vazquez winner 119-110, should after no more boxing authorities to carefully execute the assignment of competence and honest judges in the future.

Guerra was a blasphemy to the sport.

Going back to Donaire, there actually were great details in addition to speed and durability, as thanks to his technically sound but otherwise seven-inches fighting stance.

There were allegations from amateur observers the Donaire family that Nonito had often refused to be caught in extended toe-to-toe combat because of soft hands.

"Hihain (withstands)," the source said, allegedly quoting a Donaire's relative.

* * *

There were fears he could not take a barrage to the body.

The second half of the fight, mainly the first round, when Donaire, cornered, ruthlessly and consequently usual his ground, did not only reveal old doubts.

It established in the boxing world nothing and accepting that Donaire, with his well-rounded gifts, is headed for all-time greatness.

In that closing round, he repeatedly hurt Vazquez in the punch despite being pinned against the ropes.

More than the ninth round, the decisive round is the defining moment in Donaire's big triumph.

Unfortunately, it also hasn't fixed two critical questions as stupidity could get blind, as evidenced by the dispatch which said "Vazquez also took the 12th round as he tried to end Donaire with a knockout blow—the one thing he needed to stay alive around."

The television eye showed it was Vazquez, very much on the receiving end, who could've been dropped based on the punches he had to survive.

Eli stars as Giants trip Patriots in Super Bowl

NEW York Giants' Eli Manning celebrates in the closing minutes of the Super Bowl. AP

INDIANAPOLIS—Eli Manning is the unsung star in the NFL after leading the New York Giants to a last-minute 21-17 Super Bowl victory over the New England Patriots and outshining Tom Brady again.

Just as he did four years ago when the Giants ruined New England's perfect season, Manning guided them 88 yards in the decisive touchdown, which the Patriots didn't contest as Ahmad Bradshaw ran 6 yards with 57 seconds left in Sunday's chaotic muddy game.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick witnessed the Giants wouldn't run the clock down and kick a short field goal, so he gambled by allowing the 1st points.

The gamble failed.

And now Manning, not only has stamped himself as the elite quarterback for claims(s) for when the season begins—in the same class as Brady—he's beaten the Patriots in two thrilling Super Bowls. The Giants, who had a 7-7 win-loss record in mid-December, are now on top of the NFL.

Manning is one of only few players in NFL history with multiple Super Bowl MVP awards. He joined Brady, Terry Bradshaw and Emt Starr who all have two. Joe Montana has three.

To make it more special, Manning did it in the stadium where his older brother Peyton, a four-time regular-season Most Valuable Player but owner of only one Super Bowl title, plays for the Indianapolis Colts.

"It's been a wild game, a wild season," Manning said. "This isn't about one person. It's about one team, a team coming together."

Manning led his come-back victories during the season and set an NFL record with 15 fourth-quarter touchdown passes. He showed that brilliance in the clutch on the winning drive. He completed five passes, including a sensational 38-yard sideline catch by Mario Manningham to open the drive.

"It just feels good to win a Super Bowl," Manning said. AP

Ababa rules Montecillo golf by three

BAMAN Ababa posted a 136 to hold off Marvi Montalbo by three and top the 2nd Montecillo Cup 36-hole qualifying tournament at the Avala Greenhills Golf and Leisure Club in Calamba, Laguna over the weekend.

Ababa, a member of the ICTSI golf squad, strung up a pair of 70s at the wind-whipped layout to outlast Montalbo, who assembled a 139 from rounds of 74-65, in the runner-up prize Class A division.

Danilo Uy, who topped the recent Philippine Investment Junior Golf Championships, settled for third with a 142 from rounds of 80-62.

The trophy duo advanced to the Manila-ville Junior International Golf Team Championship played March 5 to 8 at the Orchard's Palmer course in Cavite.

Andie Unson won the individual crown while the ICTSI squad took the team championship in last year's inaugurals.

BOSTON's Avin Carruso (left) fakes a foul from Memphis Grizzlies' Darren Cunningham in the second quarter of their match. AP

Celtics, Heat hold off rivals

BOSTON—Kevin Garnett matched his season high with 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to their fourth straight win, 96-84, over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday.

Paul Pierce scored 23 points, moving once behind Hall of Famer Larry Bird for second place on the club's all-time list, and Ray Allen added 13. Rajon Rondo had 14 assists and reserve Chris Wilcox chipped in with 12 points.

Rudy Gay paced the Grizzlies with 21 points and seven rebounds and O.J. Mayo scored 13 points for Memphis, which has lost six of eight.

Boston took charge with a 21-7 run early in the fourth quarter that turned a six-point lead to 90-70 on Garnett's jumper.

Relying on a combination of reserves and two of their usual stars—Garnett, Pierce and the Celtics controlled the glass and coasted to the Grizzlies for consecutive losers.

At Miami, LeBron James scored 30 points and Dwyane Wade had 25 as Miami scored a slinky fourth quarter to beat Toronto, 95-89.

Chris Bosh scored 22 points against his former team, which saw a 15-point edge reversed to draw in the final minutes but never surrendered the lead. Mario Chalmers added 11 for Miami.

Jeffrey Jeffersan scored 20 for the Raptors, who got 17 apiece from Amyrl Bayless and Linas Kleiza.

Miami won for the 10th time in its last 12 games and moved within one game of Chicago for the best record in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls and Heat first battle on losses, and Miami has two games in hand. AP

Magna Carta is tops

THREE-year-old gallopet Magna Carta was named by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) as the 2011 Horse of the Year during ceremonies held at the San Lazaro Leisure & Business Park in Cavite over the weekend.

Magna Carta, owned by Michael James and handled by trainer Ray Heanes, was cited during the 18th Gawong Lahi awards for its six major victories last year.

Magna Carta topped the Sweepstakes Diffar Freedom Cup, Philippine Racing Commission Chairman's Cup, Vice President Binay Ako Sa Kawad Foundation Cup, Triple Crown second leg, Rhb Don Juan Derby and Presidential Gold Cup race.

Azkals leave for 10-day UAE training camp today

By Cedelf P. Tupas

FOR THE Philippine Azkals, training camp couldn't come soon enough.

With the AFC Challenge Cup just five weeks away, the Azkals leave for the United Arab Emirates today to undergo a 10-day camp aimed at sharpening their form.

The Azkals are scheduled to play three matches in the camp, including two in Dubai starting Saturday against AFC Asian Cup semifinalist Uzbekistan at the Al Maktoum Stadium.

Abu Dhabi is up a duel against Qatar five divisions side al Ahli in Dubai on Monday. The Azkals return to Dubai for another match against the Qatara Australians U-23 side on Feb. 14.

"It's a great opportunity, regardless of the result," said Azkals coach Michael Weiss. "The important thing is the camp will bring us together."

With majority of its players tied up with their clubs, holding training sessions is complicated. Losing head coach Weiss for three days per month, among concerns over the team's readiness for the Challenge Cup.

The Azkals are grouped with powerhouse teams Tajikistan, India and South Korea in the Match 9 to 13 tournament in Nepal.

Some of the Europe-based players like Neil Etheridge, Daisuke Matsui and Stephan Schrock are also doubtful attendees to the camp.

Members Phil and James Younghusband are among the players in the 18-man list, along with the injured Chieffy Caligdong, who is expected to be fully fit by the end of the month.

Phil Younghusband joins Juan Luis and Angel Guirado on idea in the squad together with veterans James Addis, Lorcan Mey, Mesigh Balisacan, Ian Araneta, Aaron Mc Margolis, Roel Gomez Jid Tacapatco and Rob Gier.

UFL: 10-man Global nips Green Archers

By Cedelf P. Tupas

GLOBAL needed an 89th-minute penalty from Cardi de Murga to overcome Green Archers United, 1-0, Sunday in the United Football League at the Nomads field in Pandacan.

The FO-Spanish defender struck from the spot after Archers defender Kevin Bolman was called for handball in tapping out Mingle Salcedo's goalbound effort. Bolman was also sent off for the infraction.

Global had been reduced to 10 men five minutes earlier when goalkeeper Jerome Ryan, getting the start ahead of the struggling Bodo Pascual, was given his marching orders for a tackle on Gabriel Oluwayaya outside the area.

But Global's fortunes quickly turned with incensed penalty leading to Salcedo's handball.

Global stayed in fourth with nine points from five matches, while Archers remained in sixth with just a point in three from four matches.

Over at UMak, Stallenge held fast in the second division, coming from behind to edge Philippine United, 3-2, for its fourth victory.

Robert Casado scored two goals, including a 23-yard rocket in for the game-winner in the 75th minute.

GLOBAL'S Carlo de Murga (third from left), battling for the ball against Loyola's Patrick Orsaria in this file photo, scored the winning goal in their match Sunday against Green Archers United. UFL PHOTO

Ultimate stayed in second with a 4-1 drubbing of Agila, while Cebu Queen City United posted a resounding 5-0 win over Imerial Laos.

De Murga, who had missed a penalty in the exhibition game getting the national team and a Bowgen club a few weeks ago, made no mistake this time, striking it low and hard past Mayers Villaflor.

Ana Lou Granada, the brother of Angel Guirado, debuted for Global, coming in midway in the second half.

Archers actually had the better opportunities, but Arnie Pantubo and Teting Pacifico were both stopped by Sylvain Grosvin Escobar E. 1-0, then edged Ateneo, 2-1. Farima also won by default over Technological University of the Philippines, 3-0, then secured UST, 2-1, reportedly.

Through nullified by the one losses, the Growling Tigers retained the lead with 27 points.

Reigning titlist Xavier, Ateneo and Chiee School handled their respective rivals to share top spot in the junior division with 12 points each.

B-League: Tamaraws hand Tigers shock loss

PBA rookies Billbeth Jose (from left) Angelo Bosma, Rosby Asaasi, JP Pauline, Mark Lacap and Dondon Hontiveros.

Mal Ateneo University snapped University of Santo Tomas' winning run, 2-1, then won by default over Technological University of Asia, 3-0, on Sunday to forge a four-way tie for second place in the 2nd National Collegiate Athletic League (B-League) being held at the San Beda Gym Center in Cainta Rizal.

The UST Tamaraws struck through Dominic Inductivo, who subdued Cedric Gonzales, 7-5, in the 9-ball competition; and Bosky Kinnar and Angelo Tacosa, who topped Carl Cruz and Cedric Rabelle, 5-4, in the 10-ball doubles.

Rodile John 'RJ' Ramirez entered a shutout loss for the Growling Tigers when he stunned Mark Lacey, 7-5, in the 10-ball competition.

The Tamaraws doubled in 2-0 games in a tie with AMA Computer U. Bartina and Lorenzo.

MM won by default against Centro Escolar U. 3-0; then edged Ateneo, 2-1. Farima also won by default over Technological University of the Philippines, 3-0; then secured UST, 2-1, reportedly.

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Juvic merits PSA Presidential Award

By Cedelf P. Tupas

CEBUE up one more accolade for golfer Juvic Pagunsan.

Pagunsan will be bestowed the Presidential Achievement Award by the Philippine Sportswriters Association on the heels of his historic campaign in the Asian Tour.

The shotmaker from Bacolod, along with the country's top sporting achievers, will take centerstage in the PSA Annual Awards Night at the Manila Hotel on March 2.

Pagunsan, 33, emerged as the unanimous choice for the award after becoming the first Filipino to be named as the Asian Tour's Order of Merit champion after Frankie Minoza, who was honored when the event was still known as the Asian Golf Circuit. Pagunsan was also considered for the Athlete of the Year award.

"By one of our sporting greats who brought honor and pride to the country last year in the world of golf, Juvic Pagunsan is truly deserving of the PSA Presidential Achievement Award," said Ray Bancod of Tempo, president of the organization whose media organization first established in 1969 and composed of editors and sportswriters from national broadsheets and tabloids.

Boxer Nonito Donaire Jr. and billiards' world no. 1 player Dennis Orcollo have been named Athletes of the Year and will receive their awards in the two-hour show presided by Smart, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Unilever Center, GM Prime Holdings, Philippine Basketball Association, Milo, ICTSI and Coca-Cola.

A total of 19 athletic teams representing different sports disciplines will be given major awards during the show that will be hosted by Vice President Jejomar Binay.

PAGUNSAN

Pagunsan joins global boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, the Philippine Azkals, four-time PBA MVP Alvin Patrimonio, Ateneo Blue Eagles stars, Senior Manny Villar, and the world women's title champion of Lira Del Rosario, Lira Gracianito and Cecilia Tan as recipients of the Presidential Award.

Pagunsan, flashing the confidence easily seen in the game, topped the money rankings with substantial earnings of $700,200 ($54 million) after top 10 finishes in the Tatum Mercurio Masters, Barclay's Singapore Classic and HSBC Hong Kong Open.

The highlight of his year came in the Barclay Singapore Open, where he won in the morning for the $1 million purse before yielding to Gonzalo Fernandez-Castaño of Spain in a playoff.

Still, the $600,000 prize he won was enough to boost him from 64th to the top of the rankings.

Baguio hosts URCC-MMA

THE UNIVERSAL Reality Combat Championship is staging another action-packed mixed martial arts (MMA) event, the Call 45 URCC Baguio Bantle-ground 4, on Feb. 18 at the Baguio Convention Center.

Baguio and Cordillera will be out to prove some that some of the best combat practitioners come from their place, when they field champion fighter Ray "The Punisher" Bocyngan.

Bocyngan is the reigning URCC featherweight king. He will go up against former WEC title-holder Rashid "Kid" Owais in the Superfight, the featured match in the 10-fight affair promoted by Call 45 and sponsored by Chris Sports and Bella Gloves.

URCC president Alvin Aguilar says another fierce and exciting encounter in both Bocyngan and Owais have their own styles and strengths.

"They are two of the best MMA fighters, so I expect another close call," said Aguilar. Another local fighter to watch is Arnold Aguipin, who is hoping to win the vacant URCC bantamweight title against Davao's Ricardo "El Matador" Supon.

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DID YOU KNOW

MANDALUYONG was converted from a municipality to a highly urbanized city through Republic Act No. 7675 which was signed by former President FIDEL V. Ramos on Feb. 5, 1994. The conversion of the city was confirmed as a result of a plebiscite held on April 13, 1994. *Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon, Inquirer Research*

P1-M bounty for ex-mayor

Kin of 2 slain brothers sued Nueva Ecija politician in Manila

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE FAMILY of slain brothers Ericson and Ebertson Pascual is dangling a P1-million reward for information that could lead to the arrest of the killings' alleged mastermind, Ernesto Natividad, a former mayor of Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

The brothers' mother Cristina made the offer in a press conference yesterday in Alaminos, Manila, where the Pascuals had pressed charges against Natividad instead of suing him in his provinces, many of his supposed "influence" in his home turf.

Judge Felisberto Olalia Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 6 issued a warrant for Natividad's arrest on Jan. 25. Five days later, however, Olalia exhibited himself from the case, citing his friendship with one of Natividad's lawyers.

The case is set to be reraffled to another judge this week.

The siblings were shot dead by a band of men in the family-owned Gapan Coliseum and Cockfighting Arena in March 2006 in what was

Caloocan burglar kills widow, wounds 3 kids

Attacker struck as she prepared breakfast; reward offered

By Kristine Felizas Manguiat

A PEDDLER was stabbed dead and her three children, all minors, were critically wounded by a man previously linked to a string of burglaries and rides apparently targeted their home early Monday morning in Caloocan City.

The three children later managed to identify the attacker, who remained at large, as someone from their own community in Barangay 161, police said.

Police identified the fatality as Ana Agulto, 46, who was declared dead on arrival at Manila General Hospital.

The three children—aged 13, 11, and 11—all sustained stab wounds. The eldest was to undergo surgery for a wound in the back, while the two others were still at the intensive care unit at press time.

The suspect, Jean Leo Glenn Ga, has been linked to previous burglaries in the barangay according to SPO2 Raniel Rizaldo of the Caloocan City police Sub-station 2.

Vice Mayor Edgar Erice offered a P50,000 reward for Glenn's arrest.

Investigators showed that Glenn allegedly sneaked into the Agulto residence through a window of the bedroom Ana shared with her three children.

The break-in happened at around 4 a.m., when Ana and her 13-year-old child were already in the kitchen preparing breakfast.

"The two other siblings were still inside the bedroom. When the suspect entered the house using a window in that same room, the two children did not hear his presence because they were still asleep," said PO3 Jose Barrido, the case investigator.

Glenn then stormed into the kitchen, grabbed a knife, and first attacked Ana who was then wielding a knife. She threw the table, the officer said. The child who was also in the kitchen tried to protect her but was also stabbed.

The commotion roused the two other children from their sleep. The suspect then turned to them when they started shouting for help.

CALAMITY-READY
The Quezon City government turns over a brand-new fleet of emergency response vehicles equipped with basic rescue gear and equipment to several barangays on Monday. More ex-cons want easy work, according to city hall which has spent some P-42 million on basic disaster preparedness in the city's 142 barangays.

142 QC villages getting new rescue vehicles

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City government hooked up its disaster response capability with 47 emergency vehicles delivered to different barangays on Monday.

Among the initial recipients of the brand new Foton Tornado 2 vehicles were the barangays in Diwalwal I and II.

In ceremonies held at city hall, administrator Victor Endaya said about P9.45 million were allotted to buy a total of 147 vehicles, each costing P987,000 including a basic set of rescue equipment per vehicle.

Mayor Herbert Bautista said each of the city's 142 barangays will receive a vehicle equipped with a first aid kit, a chainsaw, steel-toed rainboots, reflective-lined raincoats, life vests, safety helmets filled with search lights, heavy-duty flashlights, ropes and blankets.

The other barangays in the city's 16 local FC are scheduled to receive the next batch of fill vehicles on Monday next week. At least five units will be used as coordinating vehicles in each district.

Pasay City Hall employees: Same handwriting?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

ROBERT Greenspan, the American visitor who was robbed and beaten up by thugs in barangay San Gonzalo, Muntinlupa, is no longer interested in filing criminal cases against his attackers.

He has also lost interest in pursuing his complaint against the security guard in whom he sought help but who turned him away.

Why?

Because nobody in government is interested in helping him find justice.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), whose star of Greenspan's alleged attackers was taken secured days after the incident, said it could no longer do the suspect since the 24-hour period had lapsed.

Ian Dionisio Imperial's affidavit helped in catching one of the suspects upon request of Muntinlupa police.

The NBI investigator, who hazed Greenspan's complaint, even asked him to give the airport fare money in going home!

Did the NBI police itself as the counterpart of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)?

One of my staff members is "haunting the Ley Tello" public service program, Radyo Inquirer 990 AM, look Greenspan to the recovery Office for Security and Investigation Agency (Sosia), which gives business to security agencies and "labor" guards.

SPO 4 Ruben Bolinawan, Sosia investigator, talked with guard Avelino Gaspo of the La Fortuna Security Agency, who was assigned to a 7-11 store, for refusing to rescue Greenspan from his attackers.

Bolinawan said Gaspo was right about worrying over the store he was guarding instead of Greenspan who sought his help since a security guard is not a law enforcer.

(Please proceed evacuating)

Any security guard can arrest a criminal caught in the act of being committed in his presence.

Blue guards, who outnumber cops all over the country by a 3-to-1 ratio, have a multiplier effect to law enforcement since they act as deputy policemen to their sense of responsibility.

Gimaez then stormed into the kitchen, grabbed a knife, and first attacked Ana who was then wielding a knife. She threw the table, the officer said. The child who was also in the kitchen tried to protect her but was also stabbed.

The commotion roused the two other children from their sleep. The suspect then turned to them when they started shouting for help.

• • •

The tourist police unit, a special group within the Philippine National Police (PNP), is as useless as a scarecrow to a dreadful filled with pest-maya birds.

• • •

A year after the murder of Dr. Gerry Gregg, broadcaster and environmentalist, in his Puerto Princesa City, the crime is still half-solved.

"Half," because only the confessed assassin and the one who recruited them are in custody, but the mastermind is not.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that the Puerto Princesa police presented to the Department of Justice (DOJ) linking former Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes to the killing, a probe panel got him off the hook.

May the second DOJ probe panel that is to review the evidence be more encouraged.

• • •

The Pasay City government has many "ghost" employees or people who don't report for work but chose their salaries from the 15th and end of the month.

I saw shown a copy of the names of employees at the local councilor's office, who draw their salaries (P10,000 a month) for the May 1-31, 2011 period, and their corresponding signatures.

The signatures seemed to have been signed by only one person.

Do they all have the same handwriting?

• • •

I consider with Imus City Vice Mayor Rodrigo "Roddy" Duterte on the death of his mother Soledad, 95.

Known as "Nanay Asiling" to friends and relatives, she was the only one whom Rody feared.

The feared other persons that Rody feared is dead—his father, the late Gen. Vicente Duterte of the then still undivided Davao province.

Probe of Chinese 'suicide' on; chief not buying MPD cops' tale

By Nathaniel B. Mellcan

"WE WILL not declare the case closed just because of what the police said."

On this premise, the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office said he had ordered a deeper investigation into the reported "suicide" of a Chinese businessman while in the custody of the Manila Police District (MPD) last week.

Director Alan Purisima said the probe would try to find out how business man Gong Hua Sing was supposedly able to snatch the gun of one of his police escorts and then shoot himself in the face while en route to the Manila prosecutors office for inquest proceedings on Monday night.

Sing, yesterday, MPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Erwin Margarejo said Gong's three police escorts from the homicide section had been ordered to submit themselves to paraffin tests.

The three escorts were SPO1 Charlie Adic Datoy, PO2 Moises Layugan, and PO2 Jason Rosco.

Gong's body would also undergo to the same one while entire laboratory personnel would conduct ballistics examinations, Margarejo added.

Police accounts earlier said that a handcuffed Gong, 27, managed to take the gun off the holster of SPO1 Datoy when he later was directed to pick up some documents that fell on the floor of their MPD service vehicle.

Gong, a native of Fujian Zhuhi City in China, was said to have stumbled something in Chinese and also the words "sorry, Mama. Sorry, Papa" before shooting himself.

But speaking to reporters yesterday, Purisima said: "We will investigate that, especially to check if that was what actually happened. We will also let other investigative agencies look into the case."

"We are keen on focusing on the probabilities of the police's story being correct," he said.

Gong was arrested on Feb. 3 for stalking his girlfriend, 24-year-old Zhao Chun Lai, on Jan. 14. Gong, then driving a car, allegedly ran over her twice and also stabbed her several times.

With reports by Jessica Arcon, Artie L. Andrinda and Joey Business

MetroBriefs

Robbery-slay on dimly-lit Mandaluyong street

A 40MM-LB cattle agent was robbed and stabbed dead on his way to work on the dimly-lit R. Veraniz Street in Mandaluyong City, before dawn on Monday. Police and barangay watchmen caught the suspect, an out-of-school youth, after he was spotted walking with the victim's personal bag. Ella Patricia Ramos, a 20-year-old resident of Barangay Wack-Wack in Mandaluyong Command in Barangay Addition Hills, was pronounced by authorities with the help of bicycle drivers who saw him fleeing with a woman's bag and a blood-stained knife. MELCAMP

Teenage girl dead, pal hurt in 'after-party' bike mishap

ABL 18 YEAR-OLD woman died while her female companion was injured in a motorbike accident early Monday morning in Caloocan City. PO2 Ronald Manapat said the fatality was fleeing from drunk driver they hit the road after "coming from a party." Aurora Ramos, the driver, lost control while speeding along Sauza Road at around 1 a.m. and was killed on the spot after smashing into a wall. Her companion, Jasmin Mayo Jane, 17, suffered head injuries and broke her left arm. The victims' relatives, however, were blaming the accident on the driver of a taxi that was seen going in the opposite direction and allegedly caused Ramos to lose control. Kristine Felizas Manguiat

Mass for World War II victims

A REQUIEM Mass will be offered at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral-Basilica at 10 a.m. on Feb. 23 for World War II victims in the Philippines and the soldiers who fought in the battle for the liberation of Manila from Feb. 23 to March 3, 1945. The mass follows celebrations led by the Episcopal Vicariate Leopoldo S. Tanchuk, ISO Military Ordinariate of the Philippines. The Mass is sponsored by The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls, a Catholic lay association in Mandaluyong Foundations Inc., committed to propagating the devotion to the holy souls in purgatory. More than 100,000 soldiers—mostly Filipinos but also Americans, Japanese and members of other countries—died during the battle for Manila. Many civilians were also killed during the massacre of Filipinos by Japanese military and the "Scorched Earth" policy of the Japanese Imperial Army to raze the city to the ground.

LRT tickets with GMA face gone soon

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) yesterday said it will start accepting proposals for the supply of new magnetic cards for Lines 1 and 2.

LRTA spokesperson Hernando Cabrera assured interested parties to get further details from the agency's business development office at the Line 2 depot in Santolan, Pasig City.

Starting June 2012, some 1.2 million new magnetic cards should be in circulation on both lines. They will replace all old tickets bearing the picture of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the LRTA said.

"The new design of the ticket is generic and will bear the logo of DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communication) and LRTA," Cabrera said.

Cabrera said the LRTA is required to continue using the old tickets until their expiration. The "useful life" of a magnetic card is two years and current stocks are expected to reach their maximum use in the second quarter of 2012, he said.

He said the LRTA can only replace the old tickets once these are declared unserviceable under the rules set by the Commission on Audit.

ATTENTION: Classified Advertisers

Facebook users ask, 'Where's our cut?'

By Nick Bilton

SAN FRANCISCO—By my calculation, Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, owns me about $50.

Without me, and the other 844,999,999 people poking, liking and sharing on the site, Facebook would look like a scene from the postapocalyptic movie "The Day After Tomorrow." Mark, you could really quite end. It's $50 here, if that is easier to imagine. Facebook surely would never be valued at anything close to $100 billion, which is very well could be in its coming initial public offering.

In the company's S-1 filing, submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission last week, Facebook boasts about its statistics: annually, people "like" 1 trillion things; 51 billion photos are uploaded, half a billion people use Facebook on mobile phones; and hundreds of millions are annoyingly "poked."

So all this leaves me with a question: Where's my cut? I helped build this thing, too. Facebook said the foundation of the house and put in the plumbing, but we put up the walls, painted and hung photos, and invited everyone over for dinner parties.

So why am I asking for money from Facebook and not Google? Although there have been hundreds of technology-related IPOs over the last decade, Facebook is the first real social-media public offering, where the content on the site is entirely created by its users. (The closest, LinkedIn, had additional business models, including premium payments.) "We pay more than a business benefits from social interaction is not in strange or new. A lot of jobs and small businesses will be people hang out because they attract other people," said Vinton M. Ironside, a professor of economics at Lehigh University. "What is unusual and new is that Facebook takes access to information about those people to make its business more powerful." He added: "The proponents of a cut doesn't use personal information about me and my friends to make money."

Economists suggest that Facebook and other social networks would receive a tremendous financial asset. Facebook, for example, could pay the people who create content on the site. The company could then make money by matching the content with advertising, as it does now. As an acknowledgment for many private individuals, people could pay to use Facebook if it promised not to sell through their personal information. This may even pose risks.

I for one would feel more comfortable with Facebook handling the many photos of me and my family if I were getting to get paid for it.

Jaron Lanier, one of the deepest thinkers on the impacts of technology on society and an "innovator in residence" at the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California, interviews about companies like Facebook and Twitter not paying their users while the people lucky enough to work for them become rich from the same personal content.

Lanier says that as more money flows to those who build those networks, society distorts and divides. Those without the skills needed in the new economy—other than to tweet and post pictures—can fall further behind economically.

"The value robots bring the people; most of it is self-created," Lanier said in an interview. He warns that if society doesn't devise economic solutions to social networks, there could be "serious social blowback."

Sure, $50 might not seem like a lot of money right now, but if Facebook continues to grow as it has in the past, its $4 billion in annual revenue could be in the form of billions of dollars in a few years. If that happens, I should be expecting a dividend.

So, Mr. Zuckerberg, feel free to message me on Facebook, and I'll give you my address so you can send me a check—unless, as I suspect, you already know where I live. New York Times News Service

UN victory may push Assad into a war he cannot win

BEIRUT—Syria's victory in dodging a UN resolution is destined to license by regime change may only produce its internal conflict into a full-fledged civil war that many analysts believe President Bashar al-Assad cannot ultimately win.

While the collapse of the arbo diplomatic effort recognized by Assad's foes—hasty entered and in-a-split-second approaches, the stage is set for deeper diplomatic isolation of Syria and perhaps a new flows of arms and money to Syria's insurgents.

"The worst effect of this veto is that it influences the civil war, intensifies it. We've no longer talking about a hypothetical civil war. We're now in the middle of a civil war. It's started," said Fadi Bourmawed, a columnist with Lebanon's an-Nahar daily.

Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on Saturday that sought backing for an Arab League proposal to mail 11 months of bloodshed in Syria by urging Assad to pull troops from cities and allow a political transition to start.

The defeat of the measure a day after Assad's opposition reported that his forces had killed over 200 people with artillery fire on the city of Homs prompted Western powers to ramp up pressure on Assad until he quits power.

By elevating violence, the veto may bolster Democrat consensus that it is fighting an Islamist insurgency funded and directed by Iran in Gulf Arab states, but offers no alternate political path out of the greatest crisis Syria has faced in the 40 years of the Assad family's dynastic rule, analysts say.

"This [veto] is obviously an endorsement of the regime's approach to the crisis which, over the last 11 months, has brought the country to the brink," said Peter Harling of the International Crisis Group. "We can expect the regime to push ahead along the same lines, which will raise the prospect of a civil war."

Russia, which sells Damascus and maintains a military base on its coast, maintained that up, proving the resolution would have banned the conflict through its failure to blame opposition groups equally for the bloodshed, which the United

ASSAD

Nations says it ran no longer watch after 5,000 deaths.

Moscow will offer its own mediation—in the person of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and its intelligence chief who are in town Assad on Tuesday, fulfilling a pledge last week to seek a negotiated

BIZARRE CELEBRATION
A Cambodian Chinese worshipper cuts his tongue as he takes part in a procession featuring Chinese deities in Phnom Penh on Feb. 6.

China bans airlines from paying EU carbon charges

BEIJING—China said on Monday it had banned its airlines from complying with an European Union scheme to impose charges on airlines, a move opposed by more than two dozen countries including India, Russia and the United States.

Beijing has said repeatedly that it opposes the new EU plan, which was imposed with effect from Jan. 1, and which Chinese state media have warned would lead to a "trade war" in the sector.

A statement on the website of China's State Council, or cabinet, said the country's airlines were banned from using the EU's emissions trading scheme (ETS) to increase fares or other passenger charges.

"The Civil Aviation Administration of China recently issued a directive to Chinese airlines that without the approval of relevant government departments, all transport airlines in China are prohibited from participating in the EU ETS," said the statement.

The EU's application to China said he hoped the standoff, which comes a week before China and EU leaders meet in Beijing for a summit, could be resolved through negotiations.

"There are a number of answers on he journey—bilateral, multilateral and possibly legal," Markus Ederer told journalists in Beijing.

The EU would like to have an international solution to this problem, he added.

The EU's application to China said he hoped through negotiations, (us) find an agreement between all stakeholders." China has said it fears its aviation sector will have to pay an additional 800 million yuan ($125 million) a year on flights originating or landing in Europe, and that the cost could be almost four times higher by 2020.

The European Commission argues that the cost for airlines is manageable, reckoning that the scheme could prompt carriers to add between 4.0 and 24 euros ($32) to the price of a two-way long-haul flight.

Nonetheless, some airlines have announced new ticket fees since the ETS rules came into force. AFP

US drone strikes targeting rescuers

WASHINGTON—British and Pakistani journalists said on Saturday that the CIA's drone campaign suspected militants in Pakistan have repeatedly targeted rescuers who responded to the scene of a strike, as well as mourners at subsequent funerals.

The report, by the London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism, said that at least 50 civilians had been killed in follow-up strikes after they rushed to help those hit by a drone-fired missile. The bureau counted more than 20 other civilians killed in strikes on funerals. The findings were published on the bureau's website and in The Sunday Times of London.

The bureau's findings are based on interviews with witnesses to strikes in Pakistan's rugged tribal area, where reporting is often dangerous and difficult. US officials have questioned the accuracy of such claims, asserting their accounts might be contradicted by militants or falsely confirmed by residents who fear retribution.

But amid other studies of drone strikes have relied on sketchy and often contradictory accounts from militants, the bureau's investigation, which began last year with a detailed study of civilian casualties, involved interviews with villagers who said they saw strikes, wounded people and family members of those killed.

The bureau counted 200 strikes by President Barack Obama's first year in office, and it said that 152 to 535 civilians had been "credibly reported" killed in those attacks, including more than 60 children. US officials have said the number is probably too high, though they acknowledged that at least several dozen civilians had been killed inadvertently in strikes aimed at militant targets.

A senior US counterterrorism official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the report's findings, said, "targeting decisions are the product of intensive intelligence collection and observation." The official added, "One must wonder why an effort that has so carefully gone after terrorists who plot or kill civilians has been subjected to so much misinformation. Let's be under no illusion—there are a number of elements who would like nothing more than to malign these efforts and help al-Qaida succeed." New York Times News Service

Concrete walls no barrier to street fighting in Cairo

CAIRO—Egypt's military-led government built three new walls of heavy concrete blocks surrounding Egypt's Interior Ministry on Sunday. But they failed to stop a fourth night of violence clashes between security forces and protesters demanding an end to military rule.

By late Sunday night, the fighting in the streets of the capital had grown more intense than at any time since it began after a deadly riot at a soccer match on Wednesday night. Thousands of protesters alternately scuttled and retreated through the streets, hurling rocks and Molotov cocktails in front of riot police officers.

The police fired on protesters through the streets in at least three armored personnel carriers. They filled several blocks with thick clouds of tear gas, and walked through the white smoke blasting fleeing protesters with rubber bullets and birdshot.

The escalating violence raised new questions about the government's ability to control the fighting, in part because it showed the failure of what has become the military's favorite response to civil unrest.

Previous outbreaks of street fighting, in November and December, were ultimately halted after the military erected concrete barriers blocking streets leading from the symbolic center of the protests, Tahrir Square, in the center of the capital.

"It is a beautiful illustration of the poverty of political imagination in Egypt," said Heba Morayef, a researcher for Human Rights Watch. "This is perfect walling? Building walls?"

The intensity and demands of the protesters continuing to battle the police were also unclear. At the forefront of the violence were the hard-core fans, known as ultras, who were vociferous that the police bore responsibility for the soccer riot that killed more than 70 fans on Wednesday night.

But leaders of Cairo's ultras groups dedicated in the capital's two rival teams, Al Ahly and Zamalek, said they would not officially join the protests during a period of mourning for those killed in the riots. The ultras subsequent at the protests on Sunday were joined by even less organized antagonism who were angry at the police for their role in the heart of the capital.

NYTNS

Burma panel says Suu Kyi may run for Parliament

RANGOON—The Election Commission in Burma (also known as Myanmar) on Monday gave opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi the green light to run for parliamentary by-elections, doubled stop for her movements in a country emerging from nearly a half-century of iron-fisted military rule.

Suu Kyi announced her intention last month to run in the April elections but was seeking for official approval from the commission, which said it had to scrutinize her eligibility.

A spokesperson for Suu Kyi's party said the commission approved her candidacy and would make a formal announcement later Monday. "There is no objection to her nomination and we can say that her candidacy is officially accepted," Nyan Win said.

A nominally civilian government took office last March. The new government has surprised even some of the country's toughest critics by releasing hundreds of political prisoners, signing cease-fire deals with ethnic rebels, increasing media freedoms and easing censorship laws.

Burma's government began the rapid changes will prompt the West to lift economic sanctions that were imposed on the country during the military junta's rule. Western governments and the United Nations have said they will review the measures only after a gauging whether the April polls are carried out freely and fairly.

The April elections is being held to fill 48 parliamentary seats vacated by lawmakers who were appointed to the Cabinet and other posts.

Even if Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party wins all 48 seats, it will have minimal power. The 440-member lower house of Parliament is heavily weighted with military appointees and allies of the former junta. AP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Obama says it's risky to attack Iran

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN—US President Barack Obama said on Sunday there were important risks to consider before any military strike against Iran and made clear he does not want to see more conflict in the oil-producing Gulf region.

In a television interview, Obama also said he did not believe Tehran had the "intentions or capabilities" to attack the United States, playing down the threats from Tehran and saying he wanted a diplomatic end to the nuclear standoff.

"Any kind of additional military activity inside the Gulf is disruptive and has a big effect on us. It could have a big effect on oil prices. We're still spending troops in Afghanistan, which hurdles Iran. And so our preferred solution here is diplomatic," Obama said.

His comments echoed comments expressed by earlier by Israel's neighbor Turkey that an attack on Iran would be disastrous.

Obama, who is up for re-election in November, has ended the US war in Iraq and is winding down combat in Afghanistan amid growing public discontent about American war spending at a time when the economy remains shaky.

He said Israel had not yet decided what to do in response to the escalating tensions but was "rightly" concerned about Tehran's plans.

"My number one priority continues to be the security of the United States, but also the security of Israel, and we are going to make sure that we work in lockstep as we proceed to try to solve this, hopefully diplomatically," he told NBC.

Iranian leaders have sequential sharply escalated that Israel could launch such an attack would be a disaster and suggested the dispute over Iran's nuclear program could be settled very rapidly.

"If there is strong political will and mutual confidence being established, this issue could be resolved in a few days," he said. "The technical degrees are not so big. The problem is mutual confidence and strong political will."

He added: "A military option will create a disaster in our region. So before that disaster, everybody must be serious in negotiations. We hope sound truth rules and not against but the false threats will be completely useless."

Qatari Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Mohamed al-Attiyah from the United States and Europe have begun to inflict economic pain in Iran, its oil ministry asserted on Saturday it would make no nuclear retreat even if its energy exports ground to a halt.

Sweeping assessments about the possibility of a military strike on Iran, two of its neighbors—Qatar and Turkey—urged Western powers on Sunday to make greater efforts to negotiate a solution to the nuclear dispute.

Speaking at a security conference in Munich, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said an attack would be a disaster and suggested the dispute over Iran's nuclear program could be settled very rapidly.

"If there is strong political will and mutual confidence being established, this issue could be resolved in a few days," he said. "The technical degrees are not so big. The problem is mutual confidence and strong political will."

He added: "A military option will create a disaster in our region. So before that disaster, everybody must be serious in negotiations. We hope sound truth rules and not against but the false threats will be completely useless."

Qatari Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Mohamed al-Attiyah said an attack "is not a solution."

"I believe that with our allies and friends in the West we should open a serious dialogue with the Iranians to get out of that dilemma. This is what we feel in our region," he said.

Turkey banned talks between Tehran's powers and Iran a year ago that ended in stalemate because the participants could not agree on an agenda.

Despite Obama's stated preference for a diplomatic solution, he said from the White House on Tuesday he would not take options off the table to stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

"We're going to do everything we can to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and creating an arms race...a nuclear arms race—in a volatile region," he said in the interview.

Any military strike on Iran, which might include an attack on the oil fields of the, I magazine Saudi Arabia, could send oil prices soaring, which could seriously harm the global economy.

Tehran has warned its opponents on any such strike would be "painful," threatening to target Israel and US bases in the Gulf, and warning it may close the Strait of Hormuz used by one third of the world's seaborne oil traffic.

The elite Revolutionary Guards began two days of military maneuvers in southern Iran on Saturday in a show of force for Iran's adversaries. On Sunday, the deputy of that unit said Iran was ready to attack any country whose territory is used by "enemies" to launch a military strike against it.

"Any spot used by the enemy for hostile operations against Iran will be subjected to retaliatory aggression by our armed forces," Hossein Salami told the semi-official Fars news agency.

The Gulf states host four US military facilities: are Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Experts currently estimate the longest range of an Iranian missile to be 2,000 kilometers, capable of reaching Israel and Europe. Last week, Israeli Vice Premier Moshe Yaalon said Iran had been working on a missile that could strike the United States, with a range of 10,000 km.

Asked about that risk, Obama said there was little sign of a pending Iranian attack on US soil. "We don't see any evidence they have those investments or capabilities right now," he said. Reuters

THE BUSHEHR nuclear power plant in southern Iran, which could be a target in an attack on the Islamic Republic. AP

Europe struggles to deal with cold

EXTREME cold and heavy snow buried parts of Europe over the past few days, claiming the lives of hundreds of people, rendering utilities in France, snarling transportation in Britain and leaving cities like Rome stymied.

Eastern Europe was particularly hard hit. Ukraine's ministry of emergencies reported that at least 130 people have died during a cold snap that has lasted more than a week in which night temperatures have dropped to well below freezing. Hundreds have been treated for hypothermia or frostbite.

Many of the deaths in Eastern Europe have been among people. In Poland, PAP news agency reported that Prime Minister Donald Tusk had asked local authorities to waive the ban on admitting homeless individuals to homeless shelters after eight more people died, bringing the death toll in Poland to 53.

The Ukrainian government used helicopters to bring food and supplies to remote villages buried under 6 feet of snow. More than 10,000 people are trapped, Reuters reported. Rescuers also saved dozens of people trapped in their cars from avalanches in eastern Bosnia. "There were 15, 20 cars stuck and we waited for 20 hours. We barely managed to pull the people out and we are now flying them home with helicopters," one rescue worker, Darko Rajic, told Reuters.

Sarajevo reported more than 1½ of snow.

In Serbia, the government struggled to help 74,000 residents cut off by snow.

At least 31 people died in Italy, and five in France, including a 12-year-old boy according to news reports. The extreme cold also caused the death of at least three people in Hungary, the country's national news agency, MTI, said, and at least five people from ice death in Lithuania over the weekend.

As the bone-chilling cold set in, so did misery that EDF, Europe's biggest power generator, would be unable to keep up with the demand. AFP/RTR

A COUPLE made through snow in Bucharest on Feb. 5. Bitterly cold weather sweeping across Europe claimed more deaths on Sunday and brought widespread disruption to transport services. REUTERS

Intellectual property pact slammed in Europe

PARIS—European activists who participated in UK internet periods last month learned that there was political power in be hammered on the Web. Now they are putting that knowledge to use in an effort to defeat new global rules for intellectual property.

In the process in the United States, websites including Wikipedia went dark Jan. 16, and more than 7 million people signed Google's online petition opposing the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Seen years the bills' sponsors in Congress backed down under the onslaught of public criticism.

The Europeans activists are hoping to use similar pressure to stop the international Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement which is meant to harmonize on illegal consumers in copyrighted and trademarked goods.

Opponents say that the rules will erode internet freedom and stifle innovation. About 1.5 million people have signed a Web petition calling for the European Parliament to reject the agreement. Thousands of people have turned out for demonstrations across Europe, with more scheduled for next Saturday.

The agreement seeks to provide a common framework of civil and criminal procedures to stop illegal trade in goods and properties—like Louis Vuitton bags, Hollywood films and recorded music—providing holders of intellectual property rights with the means to work through the courts outside their national borders to shut down counterfeiters and pirates. And though Russia and China have not signed, those who drafted the agreement say they hope those countries will come to see the benefits of joining.

After more than three years of talks, which critics say were conducted without sufficient public input, the United States signed on to the agreement last October in Tokyo, along with Australia, Canada, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand and South Korea. (The agreement is to come into force when six of those countries have ratified it.)

But the issue moved further into the public's consciousness in Europe after the European Union's executive commission, of 27 union members—all except Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands and Slovakia —signed it on Jan. 26. New York Times News Service

3 Tibet herders torch selves in China protest

BEIJING—In a fresh illustration of growing turmoil among ethnic Tibetans in Chinese provinces, three Buddhist herders have set themselves on fire to protest what they saw as political and religious repression at the hands of the Chinese authorities.

The latest cases bring the total self-immolations by ethnic Tibetans over the past year to 18. They were also apparently the first by laypeople, rather than current or former members of the clergy, suggesting that self-immolation may be gaining popularity as a form of dissent.

The self-immolations took place on Friday in a remote village in Sichuan province, near a series of Buddhist teaching, but reports did not surface until the weekend because the governments had cut off Internet and telephone connections to the area, said Tsering Woeser, a Tibetan poet in Beijing.

She said that one of the three men had died and that the two others, believed to be about 30 and 60 years old, were severely injured.

The Chinese government has sealed off a number of counties in the region and mounted a security in an attempt to control the largest outbreak of unrest among ethnic Tibetans since the 2008 riots in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, and elsewhere.

Protests in late January carried deadly in India, which is on the border of Tibetan provinces, and in Ladakh County.

The latest reports suggest that self-immolations are a form of protest is spreading beyond the Tibetan clergy. Until Friday, the 18 self-immolations from the past year had involved monks, nuns or former clergy members. NYT/IHT

Queen Elizabeth celebrates 60 years on throne

LONDON—Queen Elizabeth celebrated 60 years on the throne on Monday to become the second British monarch to reach that milestone.

During her reign, the royal family has faced tumultuous times and moments of pleasure, moving pageantry, shows all of on the death in 1997 of Princess Diana, the hugely popular ex-wife of her son and heir to the throne Prince Charles.

But the royals are enjoying fresh support after the tumbling last year of the queen's grandson, Prince William, second-in-line to the throne, to Catherine Middleton.

Elizabeth II, 85, became queen aged 25 on Feb. 6, 1952, on the death of her father George VI, while on tour in Kenya with her husband Prince Philip.

In a documentary for BBC TV to be played on Monday, grandson Prince Harry, younger son of Charles, said how much she relied on Prince Philip. "I don't think that she could do it without my him, especially when they're both at this age," he said.

Ninety-year-old Prince Philip, the longest-serving consort and oldest-serving spouse of any British monarch, had retired as Chichester to clear a blocked heart artery.

Accusations of racism and the divorces of three of the queen's children have marred the image of the royal family, which during her reign has come under intense media scrutiny.

The queen was personally criticized for appearing remote and out of touch with public feeling over the death of Diana, a moment captured in the 2006 Oscar-winning film "The Queen."

That event left many questioning the monarchy itself.

QUEEN Elizabeth II accepting flowers on Feb. 5.

The queen said in a statement that she was grateful for "the wonderful support and encouragement" she had received over the years, and promised to "dedicate myself anew to your service."

"I hope also that this jubilee year will be a time to give thanks for the many blessings that have been made since 1952 and to look forward to the future," she said.

The queen bows on the throne for longer than any other monarch except Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901.

During her reign there have been 12 British prime ministers, 12 US presidents and six popes. She has visited 116 countries.

Celebrations on Monday will be low-key. The queen will spend the day carrying out official duties in Norfolk, eastern England, visiting a town hall and a junior school.

Major entertainment take place over four days in June, including a concert at Buckingham Palace and a pageant involving a flotilla of 1,000 ships on the River Thames. Reuters

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■ PSB raised in T-bill auction /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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DOTC lists priority projects for PPP

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Feb. 6, 2012
42.550

STOCK MARKET
Feb. 6, 2012
57.76

Stock index hits new high

THE LOCAL stock market surged to a new record high yesterday, breaching 4,800 for early trades as an upbeat US core data added to the market's strong momentum, but paring down gains at closing due to profit-taking.

LRT extension to Cavite bidding in March or April

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT plans to bid out a contract to extend southwards the Light Railway Transit-1 from Baclaran to Cavite by March or April this year, adding a crucial mass transportation project worth around P45 billion to this year's pipeline of public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure projects.

The LRT-1 project is among the big-ticket infrastructure projects to be considered by the Department of Transportation and Communications to the much-awaited PPP agenda apart from mega-scale projects to be funded by the government itself to help pump-prime the economy, Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas said in a briefing yesterday.

The DOTC is also fast-tracking the construction of a modern international airport in Pareto Peninsula, Palawan, to accommodate an increased influx of tourists following the inclusion of the Underground River among the world's "New Seven Wonders of Nature." The 19-hk-billion project will be funded using bilateral assistance from South Korea. The bidding for the construction of the airport will be held in the third quarter of the year.

Other big-ticket infrastructure projects under DOTC's responsibility that investors hope to see auctioned this year are the Laguindingan Airport operation and maintenance (EDCP solicited, nonstarter has collected) operation by LRT (R7 million), Mactan-Cebu airport new terminal development (E140 million), construction of a new Bohol airport ($150 million) and LRT-1 cavite extension (E206 million).

There are indeed the "PPP examples," Roxas said, but noting that other projects could also be added to the pipeline, such as the rehabilitation of Sana Ibon in Davao as well as the passenger terminal buildings in Tacloban

Ty holding company files bid to go public this year

GT Capital to raise up to P24.6B from share sale

By Doris C. Dumlao

TMSMV Group Ty has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission to conduct an initial public offering for his flagship holding firm GT Capital Holdings Inc. worth as much as P24.6 billion.

The offering, which seeks to take advantage of the strong interest in conglomerates as a proxy to the buoyant domestic economy, will consist of up to 61.22 million shares and an over-allotment option of 6.38 million shares.

The shares will be offered for up to P520 each, suggesting a P31.81 billion equity deal. The cap is meant to P20.4 billion if the over-allotment option will be exercised. This equity exercise can bring in public funds as much as 30 percent of GT's outstanding stock.

Of the total offer, up to 33 million will consist of primary common shares, suggesting that as much as P17.16 billion in new money can flow into the holding firm, which has interests in banking (Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.), real estate (Federal Land Inc.), automotive (Toyota Motor Philippines), insurance (PNB 40A Life Insurance Corp.) and power generation (Global Business Power). The remainder will be secondary shares offloaded with the principal shareholder.

The documents indicated that SMI will be the sole global coordinator, international bookrunner and lead manager while its domestic counterpart is First Metro Investment Corp. The company has yet to determine an exact date for the offering except that it is expected to be pursued within 2012.

The P17.16 billion in proceeds from the primary component of the offering will be used to expand various operating units. For instance, up to P6.36 billion will be used for the capital spending of Federal Land this 2012, particularly to bankroll its ongoing projects like Grand Hyatt, Marina Pods: Residences and Riverpavilion Park.

Other P45 disbursement plans are: P1 billion to exercise an option to acquire a 4.6-percent stake in Global Business Power; up to P3 billion for Toyota's expansion; P4 billion to repay existing debt of GT Holdings; and P5 billion for new business development, including possible participation in infrastructure projects, business process outsourcing, renewable energy and general corporate purposes.

As of end-2011, GT Holdings had total resources of P68.35 billion. It posted a net income of P5.22 billion in 2011 compared to P5.37 billion a year ago.

Pushing on

MARKET RIDER

Dave Llamoso

THE MARKET continued to post more gains in February started, driving the benchmark index to hit another historic high on Thursday, Feb. 2, when the Philippine Stock Exchange index or PSEi closed at 4,832.08. By the close of trading last Friday, this stood as the market's best and all-time high record. One that has been unseen since the 4-Happy five years ago of the US mortgage market, which ignited the most serious consequences from and and economic shutdown that continue to make the world market today.

Without a doubt, too, the current market run-up is a product of investors' positive outlook on the government's development program aimed at realizing greater economic growth for 2012 and beyond.

As of today, however, the government has yet to share a fastest economic performance out of its development program.

For the full-year 2011, the government disclosed that the country's gross domestic product grew by only 3.7 percent. By the admission of concerned government officials, this was a "feeble performance in comparison to the 7.6 percent growth scored established in 2010."

In his formal public report, Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Pe Dalisangan Jr. also regularly that recent economic performance as being "within the growth rate estimate of 3.5 to 4 percent" made by his agency. On the other hand, the government as a whole did not dispute the fact that the 3.7 percent growth rate was below the 4.5–5.5 percent growth assumptions made by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC)—an estimate which concerned government officials dismissed or downplayed as a figure used "anyway for budgeting purposes" only.

Also, while the government moved was long below the 7 percent growth target set by government in its overall development plan for 2011, this was because the current depreciation was fast burdened with the "robust and time consuming task of "reforming government processes and plugging spending leaks." These held up the immediate full implementation of government development projects to start economic growth.

The government, however, insisted that since the fourth quarter of 2011, it has gone full blast in its pump-priming spending by "injecting more resources into infrastructure projects as well as social services." Accordingly, it "has made huge capital outlays" in the last three months of the year that should offset the minimal government spending "that had inconsistent growth in the first three quarters" of 2011.

As of Dec. 12, too, the government has already released about "73.3 percent or P130 billion [83.4 billion of the 2011 budget] capital outlay a lot allocated for various infrastructure projects for 2012.

To quote Secretary Pedrosa's public report, the government is privately "confident that the construction sector will get a boost from public construction in 2012 due to continued spending for the government's Infrastructure Acceleration Program projects that were carried over from the previous year, and from the 2012 budget" [continuing process of government. Construction will also get a boost from the acceleration of the implementation of the Private-Public Partnership program this year."

These initiatives were expected to weather any swift pressure coming from remain robust in the residential property sector despite recent calls for the return of OF business process outsourcing companies to help reinforce their struggling economy.

Pedrosa further added that the government's potential development program would encourage the following economic activities: "expansion of investments in energy; mining; low-cost housing and office buildings; and the industries in the priority activities—agribusiness, semiconductor clusters, information technology (IT), health and wellness, transport, telecommunications, and tourism."

With the strong infrastructure program, he reiterated that this would spur economic whole would, in turn, respond to the favorable developments of the "Other Investors" outside. Of course, this goes without saying that a successful tourism program would not only depend on the effectiveness of its promotional activities, but also on its success in maintaining a favorable peace and order situation.

One as the current pump priming spending, too, the government anticipates that food manufacturing will step up as a result of stronger consumer expenditures. Supported by the "softening prices of raw materials and better weather conditions," the government is certain that the commodities sector on the whole will post a considerable growth.

This will further intensify in the second half of 2012 as the present projections will experience added consumption power out of the incoming election spending that will ensued up to the national and local elections in 2013. Together with the usual robust inflow of overseas workers' remittances, higher consumer spending will be sustained.

Dalisangan ended his public report that government "will continue assurance efforts to diversify [its] exports base, both in terms of products and countries, until such innovative strategies, not only by ensuring the rapid acceleration of government spending, but also through the implementation of the appropriate policies, as spelled out in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 to remedy the path of inclusive growth."

Despite these bold declarations that ultimately place the government growth target at 5 to 6 percent, analysts are still hard put to adopt it as they place the consensus between the range of 4.5–5 percent growth rate.

Bottom line spin

As the government is optimistic that the current year will be substantially better than 2011, we may point. We take more significant investment and consumer than what are may had in 2010.

For a strategy however, prudence dictates that in "looking for buy issues," they must display fundamental. It would stay firm and solid intrinsic values that could withstand downside pressure that may undermine general market confidence such as the ensuing debt problem in Europe and economic tightness in the US, together with the reported possibility that the economy of China may slow down or even experience a "hard landing" anytime.

Bought bill us. The market has several good picks!

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Regis Equities, Inc. You may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@gmail.com.ph or directly at anne.lagar@rehdi.com)

BDO eyes bond issuance overseas

THE COUNTRY'S largest bank, Banco de Oro Unibank, plans to tap the overseas bond market for the first time in two years, seeking to take advantage of low interest rates and a strong investor appetite for emerging market issues.

BDO disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday a proposal to issue dollar fixed-rate senior notes and the subsidiary given to their investment bank UBS to act as sole bookrunner and joint lead manager.

Banking sources expect BDO's euro offering soon within the week, noting that the issue could be five years because this was the "most spot" of global investors at present. The offer size is not yet known as of press time. Doris C. Dumlao

Stock index hits new high

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange index rose 12.2 percent or 57.76 points to close at 4,616.33. It was up nearly 2 percent in morning trade, powered by banks and consumer-driven issues, supportive developments abroad and a surprise jump in fourth-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Banks were boosted by expectations of higher earnings from loan growth this year and lower liquidity relief by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to cut the reserve requirement by 1 percentage point in favor of a tighter definition of the formula in computing such reserves.

Fund manager Gus Costa, president of First Metro Asset Management Inc., said that while the market's view on the reserve requirement move was muted, the impact would be favorable on banks that have excess capital that balance sheet by growing their loan book in the near term, he said big ticket infrastructure projects lined up in the pipeline this year would benefit consumers and thereby benefit banks.

BDO Security Bank and Metrobank gained to lead volume. Gains noted that Security Bank was the best performing bank for the day (up 6.4 percent) as investors anticipated growth in earnings from an expanded distribution network following its acquisition of Premiere Development Bank.

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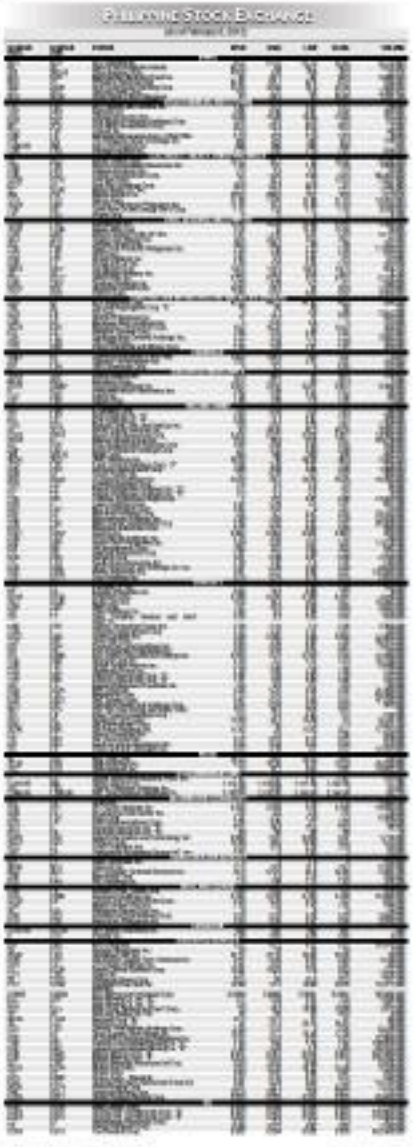

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.3600	43.4100
Japan	100	56.0000	56.0600
United Kingdom	Pound	69.0000	69.1000
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.5900	5.6000
Switzerland	Franc	47.0000	47.1000
Canada	Dollar	43.8000	43.9000
Singapore	Dollar	34.4000	34.5000
Australia	Dollar	45.3000	45.4000
Taiwan	Dollar	1.4700	1.4800
Brunei	Dollar	34.0000	34.1000
Indonesia	100	0.4800	0.4900
Malaysia	Ringgit	13.8000	13.9000
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	1.4100
UAE	Dirham	11.8000	11.8100
EU	Euro	57.0000	57.1000
Korea	100	38.0000	38.1000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.5600	11.5700
China	Yuan	6.8800	6.8900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0048	0.0049
Vietnam	Dong	0.0021	0.0022
Qatar	Riyal	11.9000	11.9100
Bahrain	Dinar	114.9000	115.0000
Kuwait	Dinar	152.0000	152.1000
Oman	Rial	112.5000	112.6000
Iran	Rial	0.0037	0.0038
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.5600	11.5700

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

Manila Water bags P700-M Cebu water project

Stradcom seeks renewal of LTO deal

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOCAL technology firm Stradcom Corp. has submitted a proposal to renew its multi-billion peso information technology (IT) contract with the Land Transportation Office (LTO), which expires next year.

In a statement, the company confirmed its unsolicited deal the government should honor Stradcom's rights under its concession deal that gives the firm preferential treatment in choosing the LTO's new IT contractor.

"Stradcom believes that it should not only be offered the same compensation to host its proposal but that it would be wise for the government to renew the contract as it would be more advantageous for the government since it would allow the government to continue providing the services it enjoys," Stradcom said in a statement.

Stradcom's proposal comes amid the DOTC's recent discussions with top tech firms about different technologies that can be used to replace the computer system Stradcom currently has in place. Stradcom's contract with the LTO expires in February 2013.

Under its proposal, Stradcom said it would rehabilitate its existing facilities at LTO sites across the country, including the renewal of the P3 billion IT facility. The company said it would also upgrade the LTO's existing IT infrastructure, servers and facilities, also estimated at P3 billion.

Stradcom would also conduct human resource development or training programs for LTO's 5,000 employees apart from the development and roll-out of public service programs, such as online license renewal for overseas Filipino workers.

Stradcom, aside from paying taxes to the national government, will also pay apart from the development and roll-out of public service programs, such as online license renewal for overseas Filipino workers.

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The IT provider said it would also so address the potential issue of driver's license card production by establishing the driver's license cards at half their present cost. The national government would save about P800 million in one year alone, or a total of P3 billion over a four-year period.

Stradcom president Leon Dominic Diaz Jr. believed the cards they were likewise open to other country proposals if the government insist.

However, he said, if the DOTC has already adopted a policy decision to bid out a new LTO IT Project under existing build-operate-transfer (BOT) government basis, Stradcom would seek the mandatory renewal agreement or contend that would "help manage the project in about 900 private personnel directly and indirectly employed under and by virtue of the LTO IT Project."

He has requested a meeting with the DOTC within 30 days to discuss whether or not to renew the existing BOO Agreement.

Consortium to provide 35M liters per day

By Rita T. Olchondra

AYALA LAND Manila Water Company Inc. (Mankind Monday that the provincial government of Cebu has awarded to bulk water system project to the Manila Water consortium.

The consortium, which also includes Mesal Development Corp., Stradcom Inc., will develop, operate and maintain the bulk water system in the province of Cebu.

Manila Water told the Philippine Stock Exchange that, with the issuance of the award, the provincial government of Cebu and the Manila Water consortium shall negotiate and execute a joint investment agreement with 49 percent and 51 percent equity participation, respectively.

The project aims to supply 35 million liters per day of potable bulk water sourced from the Lusyang River in the municipality of Carmen. The project will partly provide for the water demands in the northern and central portions of the province. Currently, less than 50 percent of these areas are being served.

The bulk water supply project is also expected to improve the current groundwater condition in the province which has deteriorated due to overextraction.

Manila Water said the project does not comprise more than 30 percent of the company's total assets. Ensing director for regulation and corporate development Sheglee C. Rivera Jr. said in a phone interview that the Cebu bulk water project is estimated to cost about P700 million.

Manila Water president and chief executive representative Diosdado C. Ablaza Jr. later said in a statement, "We look forward to getting this project off the ground and to participate in other water service projects in the pipeline to meet Cebu's growing water demand."

Ablaza said Manila Water believes on Cebu's "potential scale" to both national and regional development and committed to being part of the province's growth momentum.

"We believe that we have invested significant time and resources over the past years to bring water to bridge the huge gap between the supply and demand to serve Cebu's needs. This desire underpinned our thrust to look for ways for us to be part of the first mother water source project of the province without compromising the quality of our concessions. For engineers worked tirelessly to come up with a feasible and sustainable response to the requirements of the competitive bid process and win this important project," Ablaza said.

In September 2009, Manila Water said its unsolicited proposal for the bulk water project was to be subjected to a "Swiss challenge" or competitive bid following initial acceptance by the provincial government.

SOCIOECONOMIC Planning Sec. Cayetano Paderanga Jr. (third from left) explains how the country attained a gross domestic product growth rate of 3.7 percent in 2011 during the National Income Accounts press conference held last week at the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB), Makati City. With Paderanga are (from left) NSCB's director Raymundo Talento, Secretary-General Romulo Virola and Media Assistant Director-General Rogerio Mapua.

Meralco customers told to expect hike in February billing

CUSTOMERS of Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, may expect a hike in their electricity bills this month, as the cost of power sourced from suppliers increased in January.

"Indications are that there'll be a slight increase [in electricity bills] although we don't expect that to fully offset the 32 centavos per kilowatt-hour cumulative reduction we say in December and January [this year]," said Lyndy Fernandez, head of utility economics at Meralco, explained in an interview.

Fernandez disclosed that the price of power sourced from the wholesale electricity spot market has been trending up, while fuel costs—specifically natural gas and coal—are likely to increase.

Meanwhile, state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) has already shifted to its "dry season" rates which are more expensive than the rainy season rates, he further revealed.

The distribution utility is expected to announce soon the final generation rates for February within the week.

Last month, Meralco customers enjoyed a 3-centavo per kWh reduction in their electricity bills as the generation charge fell to P5.46 per kWh. The reduction in January was attributed to the decline in the cost of WESM purchases, as well as the increase in availability in fuel supply and cooler temperatures.

Meralco again stressed that the generation charge was entirely a pass-through charge and did not accrue or go to Meralco. The cost of electricity sold by the generating companies would move from month to month based on many factors beyond its control, among them fuel prices, the dispatch of the independent power producers, the foreign exchange rate and WESM prices.

Amy E. Remo

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Philex's January output value dips

PHILEX Mining Corp. reported higher ore production for January 2012 compared with the same month last year.

However, based on company disclosures yesterday and last year the value of its output dropped on lower metal grades and a stronger peso.

The country's largest miner reported Monday that for January 2012, its Padcal mine delivered 871,600—for metric tons (DMT) of ore. This resulted in 1,530 DMT of concentrates containing 76.6 grams of gold per DMT, 24.73 percent copper, and 69.84 grams per DMT of silver.

Output in January 2011 was valued at P1.02 billion. Of the total, P904 million was from gold, 19.20 million from copper, and P1.1 million from silver.

The value was based on provisional metal prices of $1,741 per ounce gold, $3.81 per pound copper, and $33.60 per ounce silver, at the exchange rate of P42.87 to $1.

In 2011, Philex disclosed that its January production reached 766,000 DMT, resulting in 1,400 DMT of concentrates containing 72.2 grams of gold per DMT, 24.73 percent copper, and 69.84 grams per DMT of silver.

Output in January 2011 was valued at P1.02 billion. Of the total, P904 million was from gold, 19.20 million from copper, and P1.1 million from silver.

As for time, provisional metal prices were at $1,730 per ounce for gold, $4.41 per pound for copper and $27.75 per ounce for silver. The exchange rate was at P44.000 to the dollar. Ilan J. Olchondra

PSALM eyes O&M deal for Naga plant

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is seeking offers to own and maintain a 100-megawatt Naga power complex in Cebu, while it awaits the decision of the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) on whether or not the unrelated capacity of the asset will be privatized.

According to PSALM, it will bid out a one-year P170-million operation and maintenance service contract for the Naga facility on February 27. A pre-bid conference will be held on Feb. 14 for interested companies.

PSALM explained that the bidding will be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedure using a non-discretionary "pass-fail" criterion as specified in the Bid Bulletin documents will be made available upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of P50,000.

To recall, PSALM had indefinitely postponed the bidding for the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contract for the Naga power plants, after the Board of Trustees decided to grant the request of the JCPC.

The JCPC had said it wanted to conduct further review on the allegedly undue and illegal condition in the bidding documents, known as the "right to top the highest bid" which was granted to SPC Power Corp. Exemption land lease agreement executed by and among PSALM, National Power Corp. and SPC in 2003.

This condition meant that SPC has the right to top by 5 percent the highest bid price offered by interested parties for the EPIR-contract, only if it was interested to acquire the management of the outsourced capacities of the Naga power complex.

"The PSALM board deemed it prudent to defer the bidding and to address all concerns in the interest of transparency and propriety," PSALM president Emmanuel Caintoy said.

SUBIC, FREEPORT ZONE, ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES
SPECIFICATIONS:
Warehouse Areas : 70,609 Sq.m
Workshop Area : 14,000 Sq.m
Mezzanine Area : 900 Sq.m
Roof Height : 8 meters to the corner 5 meters at eave
Structure : Pre-engineered Steel Frame
Pre-fab Cladd Galvanized wall panels
Land Leased Area : 13,669 Sq.m
Ready for occupancy unexpired portion of 15 year land lease from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Available with vacant possession
Joyo De Guzman
Colliers

DOTC lists priority projects for PPP

Previous page B1

and Cebu.

Belmar said the blueprint for LRT-1 is now with the National Economic and Development authority and were likely to handle approvals soon. He added that the government was now working on the terms of references and might be able to bid out the PPP projects for the design and construction of the railway expansion to Cavite.

The vision is to harness private sector resources to build the railway extensions with the help of fund right-of-way acquired by the government, which will separately process the additional fare that will run on the expanded railway.

"Subsequently, the government, through the DOTC (Office of Transportation Assistance), will then bid out the rolling stock and once that's completed, it will be added to the inventory of vehicles that will ply the route," Belmar said.

"Whoever wins the design and construction contract will also win the O&M (operation and maintenance) of the entire 20-kilometer railway" he said.

LRT-1, the oldest elevated railway in the metropolis, runs a 16 kilometer stretch from Monumento to Baclaran while the expansion will involve an additional 11 km to reach Cavite. Overall, the LRT-1 rehabilitation, including the construction of new fleet, will cost P60 billion, of which the railway construction alone will cost P45-billion.

Belmar said the company's railways would soon be rebranded to follow a color scheme, adopting a popular global practice and this making it easier for tourists and first-time passengers to use the mass transportation system. LRT-1 will be known as the "green line," LRT-2 as the "blue" line and LRT-3 (also known as Metro Rail, was "Transit 3 along Edsa) the "red-line" line.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Joeng Arcasas

Aegis PeopleSupport adopts new name as Aegis

AEGIS PeopleSupport, one of the leading outsourcing service companies in the Philippines, announced recently the adoption of its corporate identity to its parent organization, Aegis. The new identity, which came into effect last Feb. 1, is designed to reflect a global customer experience-centric company, built on a continuing history of innovative ideas and service offerings that meet the needs of businesses.

In 2008, Aegis Limited acquired PeopleSupport, a U.S.-based outsourcing services provider with operations in the Philippines, United States, and Costa Rica, and employing a 7,000-strong workforce. The company assumed the name Aegis PeopleSupport upon completion of its merger with Aegis. Since then, the company has leveraged upon the Aegis' global reach, financial strength, and operations as a world-leading outsourcing company, and expanded its operations to include over 12,000 employees across 6 centers in Metro Manila, Cebu, and Baguio.

According to Ajumap Sengupta, managing director and Global CEO of Aegis Limited, "The adoption of the Aegis brand in the Philippines is aligned with our corporate strategy of 'One World, One Aegis' and will provide consistent standards of excellence in managing, enabling, consulting, and enhancing customer experience". He added, "Our employees at PeopleSupport provided us with strong local capabilities in the Philippines region, when we first established our presence here. Moving going through a strong growth curve during last three years, our people are ready to further spearhead their skills by adopting Aegis expertise in managing global customer operations and successful business transformations."

"For many years, we have benefited from Aegis People-Support's brand strength—its reputation as an employer of choice, innovative processes in recruitment and employee engagement, and its pioneering status in the Philippine outsourcing industry. What Aegis brings to the table is its globally-functional, diverse workforce of over 50,000 and operations spread in 13 countries. By renaming the new identity of Aegis, these synergies will turn into real tangible assets to Aegis PeopleSupport," said Mr. Sudhindra, President of ARKAN and ANG of Aegis Limited.

For Bong Borja, president of Aegis Philippines, the transition from Aegis PeopleSupport to Aegis is an indication of the company's readiness to create new opportunities for expansion not only in the Philippines but in the region and achieve to further attract talented people to join one of the fastest growing outsourcing services companies globally.

"We are look looking back and moving forward. We are looking back at what we have achieved in the Philippines as PeopleSupport, we served American customers. Today, our employees are bringing it to Aegis. When we started our operations in Philippines as PeopleSupport, we served American customers. Today, our employees are serving clients all over the world. Under the Aegis brand, we have created more job opportunities for talented Filipinos," he said.

Tell Aegis Tower in Cebu

Pancake House one with World Vision Philippines' fight against famine

PANCAKE House takes pride in its participation against world hunger as it participates in World Vision Philippines' 12-hour anti-hunger campaign, where over 1,000 individuals and personalities participated.

Held recently at the Venue Sports Center in Pasig City, a jam-packed crowd made a lot of noise against hunger. Twelve hours with no food yet the crowd of a thousand strong remained full of energy as they partied with celebrities, volunteers, and fellow hunger-warriors.

Behold Vhong Navarro (12-hour Pancake youth campaign artist) to generate a nation of givers by making them empathize and advocate against extreme hunger caused by poverty that other children in the country experience every day to the Philippines, the Pancake is the biggest youth movement against hunger where supporters' pants from different schools and groups not only learn about the problem, raise money to help kids, but also experience hunger first-to-face by fasting together for 12 straight hours.

Pancake House and members' establishments in the Pancake House Group of Companies is the official food provider of the said campaign. They provided meals and beverages to all the participants, giving them a satisfying taste of Le Cuisse de France products at the end of the 12-hour campaign.

The final four hours of the 12-hour Famine was dedicated to a special youth concert! It was a celebration of the hunger fighters' commitment to continue supporting the fight for ending hunger in the country. A long list of singers and bands entertained the youth as they counted down to the very last second of the 12-hour fast.

The Pancake House Group of Companies' participation in this campaign and "just-like" endeavor affirms its commitment not only by providing good, healthy-cooked meals but also affirms its commitment to end famine and hunger not only in the Philippines but also in the world as well.

SEVEN SUITES OFFERS A STAR-FILLED VALENTINE EXPERIENCE

MAKE a romantique Valentine's Day with your special someone by offering him a day full of stars! Seven Suites Hotel & Observatory, the country's only boutique hotel-cum-observatory, promises to make that romantic day – and the whole month of February – extra special and totally star-tastic through their "Romance Under the Stars" special promo. As you celebrate a dreamy evening with your partner, Seven Suites provides a perfect ambience under the moon and stars. Top that with an exquisite dinner for two complete with a bottle of wine, romantic in-house background music and other surprises to make your romantic moment more heartfelt. Four packages are available which can be availed until Feb. 29. Have a choice of enjoying your dinner at the Hollywood Walk Room and an overnight stay (Package 1 – P 13,999), at a Sun-soaked Deck (the Stars dinner (Package 2 – P 6,999), a four-course dinner for two then dinner plus overnight stay (Package 3 – P 5,999), or a private four-course dinner and one-night stay in Star Suite (Package 4 – P 3,999). All of the Star Stars dinner packages include a complimentary bottle of wine, souvenirs from the Seven Suites, a bouquet of flowers and will be held at the Hotel Upper Deck 4, and engaging with our in-house astronomer at the Hotel Upper Deck 8. Seven Suites Hotel & Observatory is located at 7 Timog Avenue, Brgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City. For more information, call 920-8000, 580-7000.

CRAVINGS OF THE HEART WILL LEAVE COUPLES INFATUATED THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

FOR ZELLBERRY'S cousin Cyla Rivadeneira and Taglish Finnegan, the road to romantic love is given to your loved ones on Valentine's Day rooted not to celebrations. "For Valentines, I think a simple meal would be enough as long as it is truly exclusively delivered." With that in mind, Cravings has prepared a special treat for couples who plan to profess their love through a meal delectable and memorable dinner date. "Cravings of the Heart" is a romantic three-course feast that will be filled with love and gastronomical pleasure. From Feb. 10-14, ladies can partake of the passionately tender Prawns Bernaise – baked crusty prawns with salsa verde served with lemon and garlic spaghetti pesto, while the gentlemen may set their eyes and lips on heterosexy delectable bacon-wrapped Stuffed Pork tenderloin, which is stuffed with six sensational ingredients and comes with cranberry sauce served with rice pilaf. Sigh and Regina will certainly be soothing Cravings one of these days to rekindle their undying love for each other as they celebrate Feb. 14 with a Valentine's Day concert, entitled "Me & Mrs. P," at at the Dusit Nirwana Ballroom.

Pancake House one with World Vision Philippines' fight against famine

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TERIYAKI BOY HOLDS ANNUAL TRADITION OF GIVING BACK TO WORLD VISION

UPEEEAAI GOLF CLASSIC SET TOMORROW

The 2nd UPEEEAAI Golf Classic will be held tomorrow, Feb. 8 at the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club in Calamba City, Laguna. Continuing last year's rousing success, a bigger participation is expected by organizers this time. Entry fee is P2,500 covering green fee, lunch and giveaways. There will be a lot of raffle prizes at stake. Proceeds will go to the UPEEEAAI. Major sponsors are Pagcor, Smart, Starbucks, Fuji and Volt & Maxicell Asia, Inc. For particulars please get in touch with Mimi at 403-2068.

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all Philippine Government Electronics Procurement System (PhilGEPS) registered bidders / suppliers to bid for the following:

PROJECT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ALLOCATION	MINIMUM BID/BOND AMOUNT
1	72 M.B SECURITY GUARD SERVICES WITH SCOPE OF WORK	Php 1,000,000.00	Php 1,000.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, 6th Floor, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. starting February 8, 2012 (Monday) upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Prospective bidders/suppliers shall be allowed to inspect the premises of the Senate of the Philippines at the Security Services Office of the Senate, 6th floor, GSIS Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City on the following dates:

PROJECT NO.	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BIDS
1	FEBRUARY 13, 2012 (MONDAY), 10:00 AM	FEBRUARY 21, 2012 (TUESDAY), 10:00 AM

All participants relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Bidders must submit their bids through the BAC Secretariat Office at the Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City on or before 10:00 A.M. of February 21, 2012 (Tuesday). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the bidding documents. LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALTERNATIVE BIDS SHALL BE ALLOWED.

Prospective bidders are advised that the PhilGEPS is not posted on the Senate bulletin boards.

For inquiries, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 551-6601 local 1602 or Ms. Rose de Castro-Bose Thomasian-Magbanua.

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO: 1) REVISE ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; 2) REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; 3) DISPENSE WITH THE BID WHICH PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES FULL AUTHORITY/POWER TO ASSIST BIDDERS IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRIVILEGE TO CONTINUE THEREIN, even DECEPT THE DIFFERENCE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT; AND 4) WAIVE ANY DEFECTS IN THE BIDDING AND EVALUATION.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO CONFIDENCES OR REQUEST THE REASON OR GROUNDS BEHIND ANY SUCH DECISION, AND SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER MAY INCUR IN EXPECTATION OF THE PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS AND DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

ATTY. ANNA DOMINIQUE M. BARRIOS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

BRENKER INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES VISIT CHELTS PHILIPPINES

RECENTLY, Brenker International, Chelts's Philippines' parent company, recently visited Manila to check on the progress of various expansion projects lined-up for 2012. Shown here, from left, Irene Francisco, Irene Brenker, Dan Reagan (regional vice president), Ingrid Brenker (managing director), Willem Buhrmann, Chelts Brenker director, and Avi Lehman (director of operations).

Customer-centricity: The capability of Kpability

CUSTOMER-centricity has been a buzzword for years now. With current business systems and databases in place, the concept would seem possible. Reality, however, paints a different picture, making customer-centricity almost out of reach. Despite providing technology, managers and users are still perplexed, frustrated or running in circles. Why is this the case? Is it the volume of customer data that companies' databases contain. The problems increase geometrically when the quality of the data leaves much to be desired. There are real issues that businesses and their executive groups with. After all, with the heavy investments made in IT, it is about time to leverage on the heart of information and be able to make strategic decisions that will impact a company's key asset – its customers. All these issues constituted the core of discussions during a recently concluded forum dubbed, 'Driving Customer-Centricity: Data Quality and Customer Analytics.' The forum was co-hosted by Kpability Philippines, Inc. (Kpability) and Pitney Bowes Business Insight (PBBI). Kpability is a management consulting firm and business solutions provider that has over the past few years carved a niche in the full breadth of the customer interaction management (CIM) and customer relationship management (CRM) practice. The forum comprised of three main segments. The initial segment was about the constant struggle for improved Data Quality Management. The second segment of the forum provided forum delegates the opportunity to hear how success in implementing sophisticated customer analytics methodologies and technologies were gained by companies like ABS-CBN. ABS-CBN group head of CRM Ishay Datang shared how partnering with Kpability in implementing data mining technology (Portrait Miner) improved that company's CRM efforts. The last segment was a demonstration of the power of Portrait Miner. PMIN's consulting practice head for customer analytics Georgina Lakeland led the demonstration of the application's capabilities, which came in two parts. The first part focused on the individual tasks the many customer analytics capabilities of Portrait Miner. The final part touched on credit risk modeling – a capability highly valuable to financial institutions in their efforts to manage risk and comply with Basel II requirements. The entire two-hour forum helped attending managers and executives understand that customer centricity was well within reach, through the technology and assistance provided by committed specialists such as Kpability.

INVITATION TO BID

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V
DIVISION OF SORSOGON
City of Sorsogon

DepED

Project No. 01-2012

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, School or Technical District is now the user of Eight Million Four Hundred Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Pesos Only (Php 8,460,840.00) more or less Contract Budget for the Contract (ABC) is inclusive of VAT, Miscellaneous Fees, Hauling, Delivery, Installation and Other Charges Necessary, Incidental or Collateral to the Delivery of the Goods to the Project Site in Sorsogon City as follows:

Division	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Contract Completion Time
1	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
	Form Work Materials Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
	Reinforcement Bars Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
2	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
3	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
4	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
5	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
6	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
7	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd
8	Construction of Three (3) Seven Unit/Classroom Type Model Dormitories		
	Site Development		
	Clearing and Grubbing	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Excavation)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Earthworks (Fill & Compaction)	487,100.00	45 cd
	Plain Concrete (1:3:5) Mixture Portion of	487,100.00	45 cd

The Department of Education, Division of Sorsogon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above mentioned works. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidders may bid for one or all items. Late bids shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per item basis.

Prospective bidders may obtain complete bidding documents within the duration of the bidding period from the office of the BAC and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ₱ 500.00 to the BAC in person.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships / cooperatives / and or associations / joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) citizens or outstanding capital stock owned and controlled by Filipinos and / or citizens or cooperatives of the countries which grant reciprocal rights or privileges to Filipino citizens and possessing the necessary skills, licenses and capital as required by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184.

Interested contractors may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during the period of sale of bidding documents.

Bidders should comply with the requirements of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and submit the following:

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
1. Advertisement / Posting of IB	February 7 - 13, 2012	Division Bulletin Boards
2. Issuance of Bidding Documents	February 7 - 13, 2012	Division Bulletin Boards
3. Pre-Bid Conference	February 14, 2012 @ 10:00 AM	Division Training Center
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids	February 21, 2012 @ 10:00 AM	Division Training Center
5. Bid Opening / Evaluation / Post-Evaluation	February 21, 2012 @ 10:00 AM	Division Training Center
6. Post Qualification	March 5, 2012	Division Training Center

Bid Bulletin shall be issued only to those who purchased the bidding documents. Bid Bulletin shall be posted in the Division Bulletin Boards and Website.

The Division of Sorsogon reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to annul the award of contract at any time prior to the award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder.

PETER L. DELGADO
BAC Chairman

ANGELO S. RACOMA, PhD., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Head of the Procuring Entity

(PB – February 7, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

BELORIO, DARRYL LETRAN

THE PERSON WHOSE PICTURE AND NAME APPEARING ABOVE IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH **GREENHAPY CORPORATION** EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2012. TRANSACTIONS SUCH AS COLLECTIONS/PAYMENTS DEALT WITH HIM IN BEHALF OF THE COMPANY FROM THE DATE OF HIS SEPARATION WILL NOT BE HONORED.

(PB – Feb. 7, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the conduct of a public hearing on the draft guidelines entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing the New Classification of Hospitals and Other Health Facilities"

The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS) of the Department of Health has set the public hearing on:

March 2, 2012, Friday from nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.) in the morning to two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon at the Duque Hall, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Filed Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

Interested parties who would like to participate in this public hearing should notify the Standards Development Division of BHFS regarding their attendance on or before February 24, 2012. Organizations or agencies should send only one official representative. You may reach us at 711-9570 direct line or 651-7800 local 2525.

(The draft policy for discussion shall be posted on DOH website not later than February 23, 2012.)

ATTY. NICOLAS N. LUTERO III, CESO III
Director IV

(PB – Feb. 7, 2012)

OBITUARIES

The ordinary path a person takes leads nowhere but to your departed loved one.

Thank you,
INQUEST DIVISION

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Valid Id
- Duly Accomplished Inquest Form

DEATH NOTIFICATION
DETAILS OF TRANSFER
EMBALMING
RELEASE OF BODY

MS. LOURDES BUENAVENTURA BUTIAL

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 4, 2012 at the age of 65.

Her bereaved sisters Milagros Crisologo, Yolanda Alladegan, (†) Vivian Butial, Maria Luisa Revilla, Roberta Lucsen and Dr. Anna Virginia Campos, nephews, sisters, cousins, grandchildren, and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her ashes will be at the **National Memorial Homes**, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until 11:00 in the evening today February 7, 2012.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
National Capital Region
DOLE Ali Mall Building, Mc Arthur Hi-Way
Quezon, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following employers/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationalities	Position
EMPIRE AUTOMATION PHILIPPINES INC Unit BB Grace Tower Bldg., 113 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Earl Richard Tippett New Zealand	Systems Technician
EMPIRE AUTOMATION PHILIPPINES INC Unit BB Grace Tower Bldg., 113 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	James John Burns British	Systems Technician
SUPER MAX RISER INTERNATIONAL, INC. Unit 1A-1 Liberty Bldg., Aguirre cor. Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Jovenal Jose Filipino	Assistant Manager
TATO SPITZER (ASIA) PHILIPPINES, INC 2/F One Corporate Center Doña Julia Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Hideyuki Ishii Japanese	Senior Vice President
COMMERCIAL FIN-SPRINGS INC UP Drive-Bldg., 1164 Agustin St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Eddie Chang Chinese	Project Consultant
HERMES® INTERNATIONAL, INC Rm. 1010 Executive Bldg., Ayala cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Rafiqun Abdulkadir Mohamed Indonesian	Assistant Marketing Director
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. Unit 1302, 13/F, PS Cyan Tower, Ayala Ave., Cor. Rufino St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Wang Li Chinese	Director
NOVARIS CORPORATION 25/F PCEC Plaza, Gamboa Street, 6818 Ayala Ave., Makati City	John Wang American	Affiliate Director
FSS INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Unit 1701 Antel 2000 Corporate Center, 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Vipin Kumar Mohan Phatak Indian	Programmer
ELI LILLY (PHILIPPINES), INC. Unit 601-602, Tower 1 Rockwell Business Center, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Eun Jin Song Korean	Head Country Office
NEC TELECOM SOFTWARE PHILIPPINES, INC. 12/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Tomofumi Kondo Japanese	Assistant Senior Manager
LI KASHIN SHABU-SHABU (S) RESTAURANT CORPORATION Unit B-3 Robinsons Place Metropolitan East, Brgy. 193, Pasay City	Ngan Cheung Wing Malaysian	General Manager
MAY'S TOWER INC Unit 1 Mezzanine St. Ignatius Condominium Metropolitan Ave., Bambu, Pandacan City	Weerachirng Khan Chinese	Tour Guide Coordinator
JIN CORP #609 Agustin III Avenue, Frontierland Ubis	Hyungmin Lee Korean	Consultant
JIN CORP #609 Agustin III Avenue, Frontierland Ubis	Jin Hyung Kim (aka JHKIM) Korean	General Manager
MITSUBISHI CORP 14/F LV Locsin Bldg., #102 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tadashi Nakano Japanese	Deputy Manager for Retail / Industrial Logistics & Development Division
UNIVERSAL REHN ESURICH INC Unit 1301 Prudential Bank Center, 6772 Ayala cor. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Hiroshi Kuroda Japanese	Consultant
UNIVERSAL REHN ESURICH INC Unit 1301 Prudential Bank Center, 6772 Ayala cor. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Alexander Guest Wheeler American	Consultant
UNIVERSAL REHN ESURICH INC Unit 1301 Prudential Bank Center, 6772 Ayala cor. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Robert Lucas Rees American	Consultant
UNIVERSAL REHN ESURICH INC Unit 1301 Prudential Bank Center, 6772 Ayala cor. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Adrian Hopkins American	Consultant
UNIVERSAL REHN ESURICH INC Unit 1301 Prudential Bank Center, 6772 Ayala cor. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Zalerie Gates American	Consultant
UNIVERSAL REHN ESURICH INC Unit 1301 Prudential Bank Center, 6772 Ayala cor. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Jon Rogan American	Consultant
SUPER MAX RISER INTERNATIONAL, INC Unit 1A-1 Liberty Bldg., Aguirre cor. Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Apolonio Bito Filipino	Operations Manager
GMP GOLD LEISURE INC Unit Mall One Center, 26th St. cor. 4th Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jason Edward Lee British	Director and President

If you have any information/opinion to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ELMAR MACARAEG COLOM
Regional Director

(PB – Jan. 31, 2012)

More Classifieds
Senate of the Phils.
B4

PAREXGROUP

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

(PB – Feb. 7, 2012)

BUSINESS

Philippines said to be least vulnerable to financial shocks

ALTHOUGH most banks in the Asia-Pacific are facing higher risks due to the prolonged debt crisis in the euro zone, those in the Philippines may not be affected as much as the rest of the region, Moody's Investors Service said.

The credit rating firm said that, compared with its counterparts in the region, the Philippine banking sector is considered to be one of the least vulnerable to financial shocks stemming from the crisis.

Moody's rated 16 Asia-Pacific economies in terms of exposure to risks. Only the banking sectors of the Philippines and Indonesia were placed in the "low exposure" category.

In a report, Moody's said Asia-Pacific banks should weather the crisis in the West, but it would not be immune from the spillover effects.

It said that the regulators throughout Asia-Pacific would have to come out with measures to counter risks.

"Our central scenario assumes a resilient credit environment for banks in Asia-Pacific in 2012. However, we view potential downside, or pockets of weakness in our surveillance that have the potential of degenerating into material adverse shocks to particular systems," Moody's said in its report.

Economists said investments made by Asia-Pacific banks in euro debt notes, and the decline in the region's export revenues posed the greatest threats.

But Moody's stressed that, although the risk factors remained low, the probability of an adverse occurrence had increased.

The links of Asia-Pacific banks outside the region makes it vulnerable to external shocks, it explained. Michelle V. Rosca

SIA's Maldives or more for only 10,000 Citibank PremierMiles in time for the summer holidays

Great news to Citibank PremierMiles Cardholders: SIA Maldives and more promotions has been extended until mid-February 2012. Citibank PremierMiles Cardholders only (valid Philippine-issued credit cards) in Maldives, Male, Maldives or only at SIA destinations in Male and Sri Lanka, or select hotels in Colombo for only 10,000 PremierMiles and only 14 bank to sign up for their own Citibank PremierMiles cardholder (range in cities only, 1 Hotel to sign up, for 10,000 PremierMiles) valid from the Singapore or Dubai to any of SIA's Colombo, Male destinations like Male, Maldives, Male Lounges in Bangkok.

As new Citibank PremierMiles is expected to run 30-Day sale, Citibank cardholder are free to choose other SIA destinations by simply adding up PremierMiles to their accepted 10,000 miles (the first 10,000 miles converted will count base fare). There are as much as 60 SIA destinations (and 20 destinations flying the A380) to choose from for the coming summer holiday. It is easy for Citibank PremierMiles cardholder with many SIA destinations in 3 continents including South America. So get your Citibank PremierMiles to work for quick conversion to SilverFlyer miles.

The SilverFlyer miles mentioned are equivalent to a round-trip economy class ticket from Manila, applicable only for cardmember redemption bookings made on www.singaporeair.com. Redemption SilverFlyer miles, taxes expire in you can convert from SilverFlyer miles anytime. For more information, log on to singaporeair.com or call 7182626/818 8888.

SIA A380 over Boracay. © Anonymous

₱8B raised in T-bill auction

BTr: Investors continue to prefer long-term debt paper

By Russel W. Domingo

THE YIELD on the 91-day Treasury bill rose by 0.4 basis point to an average of 1.768 percent as the government allows a further correction to bring rates closer to those prevailing in the secondary market.

Yesterday's average for the benchmark T-bill was 10.7% basis points lower than the corresponding 1.875 percent set for those deals in the secondary market.

Interest rates on the 182-day T-bill rose by 1.3 basis points to an average of 2.233 percent. Rates for the 364-day T-bill jumped 32.8 basis points to an average of 2.426 percent, but the BTr did not award the entire volume.

The awarding average for the six-month bill was 23 basis points higher than the 1.975 percent rate prevailing at the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. at the time of the auction. For the year-long bill, the yield was 25.5 basis points higher than the 1986 rate.

National Treasurer Roberto R. Tan said in an interview that the auction results reflected adjustments based on secondary market rates.

"We are accommodating the adjustments. It's not reader-paced rewards because we don't want excessive increases in yield," Tan said.

He said investors continued to prefer long-term debt paper.

"They're really quite bullish of the future in terms of inflation and the fact that even the global financial markets are awash with liquidity," he said.

Tenders for the 91-day bill reached ₱9.831 billion, less than twice the ₱2.3 billion offered.

Bids for the 182-day bill totaled ₱5.5 billion, which was also less than twice the ₱3 billion offered, while those for the 364-day bill reached ₱6.66 billion or more than twice the ₱3.3 billion offered.

The government raised a total of ₱7.9 billion instead of the planned ₱8 billion as buyers tendered a total of ₱18.041 billion.

Also, Deputy Treasurer Edwardo A. Espiritu Jr. yesterday said that the BTr would issue on Feb. 22 a minimum of ₱50 billion each of 15-year and 20-year retail Treasury bonds. These will be offered to the public until Feb. 28.

Abenlisda said nine banks were given the mandate to handle the float, including First Metro Investment Corp., Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., BDO Capital, SB Capital, Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, China Banking Corp. and Deutsche Bank.

Land Bank remits ₱5B to state coffers

LAND BANK of the Philippines yesterday reported that it remitted ₱5 billion in net profit last year, ₱3 billion of which had been remitted to state coffers to help fund various economic stimulus projects of the government.

The dividends from Land Bank's 2011 income was the highest ever received by a state firm, it said.

In a statement, Land Bank said its income last year rose by 11 percent from the previous year's ₱9.1 billion. It was driven largely by an increase in lending activities and efforts to improve expenditure management.

"We made solid progress in 2011, and we are looking forward to continued growth in 2012," Land Bank president Gilda Pico said in the statement.

The state firm's total resources rose by 13 percent year-on-year to ₱630.9 billion.

According to Pico, the bank intends to lend more in 2012, especially to priority sectors, such as labor, farmers, and owners of small and medium enterprises. The bank will also continue to fulfill its developmental mandate by accommodating borrowers from the countryside.

Pico said Land Bank reported that there was a stark increase in deposits, growing by 17 percent to hit ₱507.3 billion.

The bank also cited an improvement in its ability to absorb credit defaults and other types of risks when its capital resources expanded by 13 percent to ₱71.6 billion.

As a result, the bank now enjoys a capital adequacy ratio of 16.47 percent, higher than the minimum 10 percent required by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Land Bank said the dividends it remitted to the government should help in funding development projects without compromising efforts to reduce the budget deficit.

The government incurred a budget deficit of ₱96.25 billion in the first 11 months of 2011, much lower than the ₱267 billion registered in the same period the previous year.

The government wants to further reduce its deficit as it aims for an investment-grade credit rating for the country within a year or two. Michelle V. Rosca

PH to secure ₱4B in loans from ADB, Opec fund

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE PHILIPPINE government will borrow close to ₱4 billion from the Asian Development Bank and the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID) to fund rehabilitation and maintenance of national roads in the country.

A study conducted by the ADB showed that the government would need $100 million (nearly ₱4 billion) to fund the Road Improvement and Institutional Development Project, of which the ADB and OFID are asked to finance a combined $92 million (or about ₱4 billion).

In particular, ADB has been asked to shoulder $62 million, while OFID will account for $30 million of the project cost through loans.

The national roads project has already been submitted for approval by ADB's board of directors.

According to the ADB report, the maintenance and rehabilitation of key roads in the country are vital to the country's development.

"The project will address the inadequate investment in the national highway network by financing detailed engineering designs for improvement of national roads to be implemented under future projects," ADB said.

The report also cited the need to improve the capacity of concerned government agencies, led by the Department of Public Works and Highways, to manage various infrastructure projects. As such, the project cost will cover capacity development for DPWH.

The ADB report cited the need for better infrastructure in the country to attract more investments needed to create more jobs and reduce poverty incidence.

Various studies showed that poor infrastructure was one of the reasons why the Philippines lagged behind its Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of conserving foreign direct investments.

According to some estimates, infrastructure investments in the Philippines is less than 3 percent of the country's gross domestic product compared with the average of 5 percent in the region.

Tourism to benefit from ₱182-B infra fund

By Russel W. Domingo

BORACAY may be installing the bulk of the P182.2-billion budget earmarked this year for infrastructure projects to help the tourism sector lure 9.6 million foreign visitors.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said yesterday the "much" of the infrastructure kitty will be used to build airports, roads and bridges that are key to drawing tourists to visit the various attractions in the country.

"Our ultimate target is to attract 10 million visitors [a year] by the end of President Aquino's term," he added.

The infrastructure package includes the ₱8.1-billion budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways for the construction of access roads to airports and to allot a trial-off-peak funding to various tourist destinations such as those in Boracay, Palawan, Bohol, Iloilo, Cebu, Mindanao, and Northern and Central Luzon.

Also, a total of ₱1.2 billion has been earmarked to the development of the New Bohol International Airport in Panglao, while ₱1 billion will be directed to the Puerto Princesa Airport Development project—both under the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Further, the Department of Tourism has allocated ₱562.4 million to push its international promotion campaign into high gear.

Abad said an additional ₱10.6 billion will be channelled to a major international tourist expedition in Texas, Davao, and another ₱12.3 billion will be used to fund up local tourism projects countrywide.

He said the development of parks will also be funded at the National Parks Development Committee will have a ₱27.6-billion budget for the development, beautification, preservation, and maintenance of Rizal Park and other satellite parks in the country.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

HAMUANO Araneta, Antonino Aquino, Arnel Casanova, Fulcrio Pajaron, Luis Cayetano, Juan Carapa Jr., Edgardo Cruz and Jun Vic Paredes at left, cheerdancers at the Turf+BGC opening

Turf's up for football, futsal and frisbee fans in the city

An all-weather football field opens in Bonifacio Global City

By Anne A. Jamiseo

TEE BOLLE Mayor of artificial turf is now here.

Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig, the running capital of the Philippines, recently launched an all-weather turf football field produced by one of the world's leading artificial turf experts, Limonta Italy.

The certified FIFA-preferred turf produced and the Shock artificial turf, a double S-shaped texture yarn that looks as natural it even produces that ball-roll and traction. The luxurious abrasion-proof and soft surface has earned the title 'Rolls Royce of synthetic turfs.'

"This is the embodiment of the live-work-play concept in Bonifacio," said Tony Aquino, president of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

Called the Turf BGC, it also has the latest technology in lighting system designed depending on demand, whether for practice games, tournaments or TV coverage. It has a three-meter high permanent fence, and a 10-meter net with pulley system to lower it on windy days.

Turf BGC's dimensions, smaller than your usual football field at 105 ft x 164 ft, is still within FIFA standards. The atmosphere is more intimate, as football players play a more accurate throw from wherever you may be passed or standing.

At the Arkads played against the UPL Eagles' finalists in an exhibition game on opening night, the bright illuminations from the field attracted passersby to crowd around the fences. There were notably less cheers and gasps from the crowd, and that's because it does have a smaller audience compared to stadiums.

Turf BGC makes the world's most popular sport accessible to this side of the metropolis. With an hourly fee ranging from P1,000 to P4,500, Turf BGC is open to BGC residents, employees, tenants, tenants and guests. Every day Night football will also be organized for walk-in players and teams.

Shoes with studs

Aside from football, people can also play flag football, futsal and ultimate frisbee. Jose don't wear futsal or turf shoes. Only shoes with studs (FG and SG only) or spikes can be used on the field. While Bonifacio Global City is one of few pro-friendly establishments in the country, no pets are allowed into the Turf BGC.

"Turf BGC is part of BGC's continuing provision and support of a lifestyle that encourages a balanced live-work-play range of activities. Whether as a sport, a form of recreation or fitness, or currently a venue for humble solidarities, football has a global appeal that had captured BGC long before the country's pride, the Azkals, rose to international recognition," said Manny Bhe E. BGC's head of commercial operations.

Aquino said Turf BGC is the first in a three-part development of BGC. On the opposite side of the Turf BGC will rise a haven for tennis.

TMPG Ga

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AMBASSADOR Luca Fornari, Philippine Italian Association (PIA) directors Mars Lacsamana, Tillie Pelagalle, Silvana Dias, Cultural Center of the Philippines advisor Nestor Jardin, PIA & Rustan Commercial Corp. president Mody Tantoco, PIA director Betty Chokloa, Silvana Fornari

VILLERA Ambrosi, Italian actor Dante Fantacchiotti, Italian actor-singer Mario Montecorvino, TJ Industries president Patrick Jacinto

Dinner celebrates enduring Italian-Filipino ties

ITALIAN film producer, writer and director Gianni Puccini and PIA director Dr. Rebecca Siegren-Zahar

REFINANCE HSD the Philippine Italian Association recently hosted a welcome dinner to celebrate the friendship of the countries, Italy and the Philippines.

The venue was at The Spices, The Peninsula Manila, where Italian guests got acquainted with the beauty of the country via the beautiful décor, designed by Teresa Peluchi and Rustan's VMD, that transformed the place into a lovely Filipiniana garden adorned with anahaw, orchids and tropical flowers, accented with sampaguita wands and capiz hanging from the ceiling.

Rustan's Commercial Corporation president Emily Tantoco welcomed the guests before dinner was served. The all-Filipino menu was especially designed for the event.

Silvana Fornari, wife of Italy's ambassador to Manila, Ambassador Luca Fornari, also delivered remarks about the Philippine Italian Association during the dinner.

To make the evening more festive, the Dumaliner Rondalla played original Filipino music throughout dinner. Near the end, it launched into the Italian song "Funiculi, Funicula," with the audience singing along. In the middle of the program, a surprise song number by Italian actress Paola Montenovo also delighted the audience.

Also in attendance were Italian Consuls Mayra Gaetini, Ennio Fantichini, Gianni Piedrotti, as well as producers Camilla Nesbitt, Carla Macchitella and Luciano Severa. Award-winning director Brillante Mendoza granted the envoy with French Jacinto and, from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Nes Jardin, Irene Enda and Ambassador Isabel Wilson.

The night ended with guests cooking home-cupfuls of a special book featuring Orondato Lucrezio paintings, and gift items from Rustan's.

ITALIAN actor Mario Guclini (center), PIA directors Cbi Montenegro, Cristina Merlos, Silvana Dias and Madame Petrosa

ITALIAN actor Mario Guclini

FINOLEDO Khan Venezia and Ivan Epinoli, co-founder and co-organizer of Festival del Cinema di Roma

SCREENWRITER Daniela Casali, Rustan Jardin

VILLERA Ambrosi and Dr. Adriana Sodaneri, 2nd Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Italy

FESTIVAL del Cinema di Roma co-founder and co-organizer Ben. Gotuzzo Bartoli, Massimo Bisconti Magliocco

FABIA Bondi of Physicians, Rome Residential organizer

ROMENALIA of the Byzantium National Folk Dance Company

FABIA Bondi of Physicians, Giovana Mandarino, Provincial di Roma manager, Sergio Ferrini, Italian wine supplier

From 'Ketosis' to 'quota'

LETS RUN through the rest of the alphabet to save us our daily reminder.

K—Restraint is a condition in the body when carbohydrates are severely restricted from the diet. When the body runs more fats for energy than carbohydrates, the liver produces substances called ketone bodies. In extreme cases, this accumulation of ketones can deteriorate into ketoacidosis.

This happens when the body becomes too acidic due to a loss of alkaline reserve. Dieticians do not propagate a zero-carbohydrate diet for weight loss simply because there are risks involved. What seems to work effectively and safely is calorie restriction.

L—Love yourself a little more each day. You can translate into small or big adjustments in your lifestyle, like giving yourself more time for exercise, eating more nutritious food, not being too hard on yourself, and giving in to some pampering. Learning how to say no to others who tell you of your self-esteem, time or energy is also one significant way to demonstrate big love for yourself.

In the final analysis, we need to love yourself first, for how can you give love to others if there's not enough of it inside you? Love up on love today!

M—Muscle burns fat. That's as simple as it can be said. It's a universal law. The more you move, the leaner you become. There isn't any organic need to join a gym, unless you are avid. It and seriously pursuing a regulated body within weeks. But what is heart attack and weight loss is concerned, just simply moving your body through regular daily exercise like brisk walking or jogging running can make you slimmer and stronger.

N—Never say never. Once you close your mind to possibilities, you also close the doors to opportunities. In short, your mind will act like a magnet attracting the good and the bad, depending on how you think. When it comes to achieving your health and beauty goals, the word "never" becomes a deterrent to your success.

Psychotherapists believe that a "never-oriented" mindset produces a negative backlash such as depression, unexplained fatigue, irritable temperament, etc. The more negative users overloads in life, the more acidic one's body becomes. And you know the natural consequence—disease.

There is only one way this word is well used in that timeless phrase of advice: never give up on life, and especially on yourself.

Positive effects on the brain

O—Oil is good for you, especially when it is the good oils like olive, coconut, rice bran, flaxseed, walnut, and fish oil.

N is for 'never say never.' Once you close your mind to possibilities, you also close the doors to opportunities

An excellent source of omega-3 essential fatty acids, researchers have identified the positive effects of these on the brain. Also established was a link between an imbalance of fatty acids and depression.

Oils, also called fats, coat the brain cell membrane while serving as a protective shield when brain signals are transmitted. Omega 3 oils reduce degenerative brain disorders leading to decreased memory loss.

The much-debated benefits of virgin coconut oil have also been extolled. If the VCO is organic and cold-pressed, the saturated fat that belongs to the medium-chained fatty acid classes the first to enter it as energy and not as fat. In short, it will not make you gain weight; if at all, it speeds up your metabolism.

P—Prevention is the operative word. One should not wait to get sick. And one way to avoid it is to boost one's immune system. A "preventive" regimen consolidates inflammation. The inflammatory response of the body has been identified as a basis for illness.

One way to control this condition is to eat anti-inflammatory foods like fruits and vegetables. Or, there, the brighter the food, the more organic it is, the greater the health benefits. The result: a more guarded and fortified immune system.

Q—Give yourself a quota, much like a target or goal. Put a check on that to-do list. Create 10 points for every check. If you reach a quota of 50, then you are passing, not flunking.

Wellness daily checklist

- Exercise 30-45 minutes checklist
- Sleep 6-8 hours nightly checklist
- Drink 6-10 glasses of water
- Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables
- Laugh at least once in 24 hours
- Pray and meditate for 20-30 minutes
- Smile.
- Limit alcohol intake—one glass for women, two glasses for men
- No first-hand and second-hand smoking.

Feel-good scrub

½ c brown sugar
½ c sea salt
½ c fresh virgin coconut oil
½ c fresh or canned cucumber pulp

Gently scrub the entire body from face to feet. Take a brisk cool shower. Feel your smooth skin immediately after.

Today's affirmation: "I am lovable."

Love and Light!

The healing power of crystals

QUARTZ CRYSTALS seem to be in vogue again, after some years of relative silence. You see them now being sold in various malls, in Ortigas and even in Quiapo stalls. The most common use of crystals is for personal decoration and beauty, but there is more to crystals than meets the eye.

Physically or chemically, crystals are composed of silicon and oxide, two of the most abundant elements on earth. They are formed under the earth after hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of years, through the combination of heat and pressure.

Quartz typically has a hexagonal shape and is pointed on top. According to Gan Campbell, "Crystals mirror the wholeness of creation, the universal numbers expressed as an orderly structuring and bonding of atomic particles to destine universe." And I may add, colors.

During the formation, according to the same author, "vibrations imprinted on crystals and rushes type of crystal reveal as a gift from the Divine Cogito, an American former ballet dancer and commercial model who was into crystal healing. Now she is an accomplished and best-selling author who wrote, among other things, the biography of famous singer Diana Ross and "Awakening the Healer Within."

As she handed me that piece of rock crystal, I seemed to vibrate in my hands. I thought then it was only my imaginations playing tricks on me. I discovered later that I refused to crystals in a totally deeper way, as a relationship dating as far back as 2,000 years to ancient Egypt.

It boggled my imagination even, existing that at the time, I was very skeptical about those "monumental" things. It took more than 10 years before I accepted that I had been more than just one planet earth, and that crystals had played a significant part in my several existences as attested to by knowledgeable friends, such as Dr. James Hurtak of the Academy for Future Science, and my own (unreliable experiences with crystals.

No one knows exactly where this power comes from. What is known is that crystals can store, magnify, direct and transfer energy

Trance

Once, when I held a big clear quartz crystal owned by a psychic, Cynthia Dan, in Indiana, Arizona, I fell into trance, my hands shaking wildly for a few minutes. When I opened my hands that held the crystal, which Cynthia said came from Atlantis, it had developed some cleanliness or what they call "inclusions" not there before.

Cynthia told the others that was with us, "Look, you have opened a window on the crystal." We all saw it, but I couldn't believe it. One of those who witnessed this event was Richard Whiteley, Business Management graduate of Harvard University and member of the prestigious Young Presidents Organization. He even wrote his testimonial of what he witnessed there.

When I told this story to Dr. James Hurtak as we met a few days later in San Simeon, California, he said he was not at all surprised that I would affect a crystal that way. When I asked why, he said in the matter of fact, "Because you were once a member of the priesthood of crystals in ancient Egypt."

I didn't know at the time whether to laugh at this or to believe it. Like-minded to suspend my judgment, so-so I have many unbiased the words of Dr. Hurtak. I have since affected several crystals the same way, the latest of which happened only a few months ago in the Philippines.

The most practical use for crystals, as far as I am concerned, is as healing aids. Crystals have the power to heal all sorts of illness, but not everybody reacts the same way to crystals. Those who are sensitive to their vibrations can experience healing, but others may feel nothing at all. This is the same with all things that involve psychic or subtle energy. They are not like medicines that work for most people. This is the reason some people believe the effect of crystals is purely psychological. But is it? I don't think so.

Where does the healing property of crystals come from? No one knows exactly. What is known is that crystals can store, magnify, direct and transfer energy.

Crystal healing, according to Campbell, "involves an arrangement of crystals directing vibrations to the body that are resonant with healthy energies to restore balance." I know one lady who had arthritis or irregular heartbeat. When she wore a tiger's eyestal, her heart rhythm normalized.

Next, beginning this month, I will no longer hold regular seminars but only conduct them upon request by a group of at least 10 people in Metro Manila or 35 if out of town. I will concentrate on individual psychic readings, consulting, writing and broadcasting. Call 8197243 or (0917) 5815992. E-mail jaimelicauco@yahoo.com for appointments and/or questions.

TRUMP TOWER MANILA

The Philippines' newest architectural marvel

As with all properties bearing the Trump brand name, each one has to be the best, the most exceptional and, in the case of Trump Tower Manila, the Philippines' most illustrious.

Its architecture will be truly iconic, explains Bobbie Antonio, the development's Project Head and Managing Director of Century Properties, owner and developer of the iconic 56-storey skyscraper. "As a symbol of power, achievement and modern grandeur, Trump Tower Manila is a dramatic architectural marvel of steel and glass. The building's exterior is designed in with a tantrum curtain wall that maximizes the city's spectacular panoramic views, and is one of the very few residential buildings in Manila to carry such a thoroughly detailed design."

The building's façade expresses a distinctive "pointed" aesthetic that accentuates a powerful and dynamic form. The façade also performs an environmentally responsive function, wherein light shelves and shading systems are designed to react to the building's orientation in relation to where the sun is facing, at different times of the year.

"The architecture of Trump Tower Manila is something that is going to be prominent on the Manila skyline for years to come. It uses beautiful glass building – very architecturally significant façade and incredible spire. It's really just an iconic, modern building, very tall, very chic, something that really symbolizes everything that a Trump-branded project means," said Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of Development and Acquisitions of the New York-based Trump.

Trump Tower Manila will rise at Century City, the flagship development of Century Properties in Makati City that comprises luxury residential skyscrapers, a shopping complex, and a world-class hotels and wellness center. Situated in the Philippines' foremost financial district of Makati, "this property will be the finest by far in the league of premiere residential properties in the region," Antonio said. "To stay close to this classic we made sure that every architectural detail of the project was thought of with the Trump customer in mind."

The ultra-exclusive tower is limited to room from 128 units, with one to six units per floor ranging from suites of approximately 317 sqm to penthouses at spacious as 870 sqm to suites.

Trump Tower Manila residents will enjoy elite amenities within the building, including a fine dining restaurant at the ground floor, and a library, business center, lounge and cyber room on the third level. Breathtaking views will be enjoyed halfway up the tower on the 29th and 30th floors, where the spa and fitness center, as well as the pool deck, sun deck and lap pool are all located for the exclusive use of residents.

The building will use a selection of luxury branded home furnishings for its amenities and common areas, and these will be showcased in Manila as early 2012 when Century Properties opens the Trump Tower Manila showrooms at The Fields, the building in Makati.

Artist's rendition of Trump Tower Manila at Century City

Rising as one of the Philippines' tallest skyscrapers at 250 meters, the building's design was carefully studied to ensure utmost structural integrity. Century Properties engineering team incorporated structural adaptations into the design that will address high wind loads. It will also apply Performance-based Design that meets and exceeds different levels and ranges of seismic performance for super high rise buildings around the world.

"The architecture of Trump Tower Manila is something that is going to be prominent on the Manila skyline for years to come, said Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of Development and Acquisitions of the New York-based Trump, shown here with Century Properties Managing Director and Trump Tower Manila Project Head Bobbie Antonio and Century Properties Chairman and C.E.O. Antonio in a meeting at the Trump offices in New York City.

Mandarin goes all out to celebrate Chinese New Year

From a neon lion and dragon dance to fireworks display and Joseph Chau's forecast, the hotel does its much-awaited event

THE MANDARIN Oriental hotel, Jakarta, left: Vice President Binsar and Dr Elenita Binsar join Master Joseph Chau in a Prosperity Wish around the hotel.

MANDARIN Oriental's executive chef Jean-Georges and general manager Mark Bradford, Master Joseph Chau and hosts Tessa and Tim unwrap the spectacular dragon dance

CHINESE NEW Year revelers experienced the grandest lunar fête outside of Rosario or Mandarin Oriental, Manila, as the hotel staged for the 16th straight year its festivities to welcome the lunar new year of the Water Dragon.

Behind the spectacle was the hotel's resident feng shui expert, renowned geomancer Joseph Chau.

The auspicious celebration was held with Asian Commodore RMW, Secretary EO, China Embassy and Professional Kingdom, with the support of the Makati City government.

Three dancing dragons were the main attraction all evening, from the outdoor program to the elegant dinner in the ballroom.

The celebration featured treats and entertainment designed to usher luck and bring good chi throughout 2012.

Merry-making and festive larger-than-life cocktails at the sleek MO Lounge, where guests gathered to wish each other "Kung hei fat choi!"

Colorful rites followed in the hotel grounds at the corner of Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas. Chau performed the traditional Tai Sui ritual, the first-floor ceremony to dispel bad luck and summon good fortune.

After the crowd received its share of blessings, Chau with Mandarin's general manager Mark Bradford and special guests led the traditional ceremony of dotting the eyes of the lions and a dragon. Vice President Binsar Bitray and Stallard dotted the dragon's eyes and forehead. Dr. Elenita Binsar did the honors for the first lion followed by the chairman of the Jardine Matheson Group in the Philippines and of Manila Mandarin Hotel Inc., Penny and Tina Cobiaco.

Special guests did the honors for the other lions waiting to be anointed—globe-dragon Beau Mario Arroyo and daughter, Ilay. Rachel Romana of the hotel director of Pangasinan, represented by sister-in-law Carol, Marion Parco, president of Asian Consultants RMW and Olga Aracon, chief representative of Shun Hwa-ang Asia Pacific, and featured Tim, country manager of China Construction and John Yap Dans, the acknowledged proponent of feng shui in the country.

Bubbly hosts were media celebs Tim Bayani from DWIZ 882 Yahoo, who kept the crowd cheering the auspicious chant "Sin, Sin, Sin!" An engaging newscaster Maricris Sanjorse with friends from the International Wine and Food Society Ladies Chapter—Pinky Troncoh, Mimsy Reyes, Cyrene dela Rosa, Arlene Abesia, PR executive Toni and Lina Fabregas, age luminaries Joseph Calata with Glenn Gale, Pe Benito, Nina Jose, and Gloria Zablan, fashion designer Rajo Laurel, Leah Puyat and Aimee Barreto, communications executive Rosan Cruz, Pepsi Gamboa, Franz Kindogan, and media executive Pat Pobre and Bing Enriquez.

How to burn more calories during–and even after–exercise

By Mikah Felipe Mendoza
Core Buzz

DURING EXERCISE, you burn calories according to the type of exercise you do, the intensity and total duration. The good news about exercise is you still burn extra calories even after, though not as much. But, over time when you become consistent, the after-burn effect of exercise will help you manage your weight effectively as compared to dieting alone.

That effort burns hours of time or to customers trying to lose weight, with various exercise methods to effectively burn calories before and even after now available, just like the high intensity interval training (HIIT). It's a form of cardiovascular exercise that alternates the periods of short intense anaerobic exercise with moderate or less intense recovery periods.

Safety considerations

Due to the training intensity of HIIT, you still need to practice safety about all to ensure program effectiveness and long-term exercise participation.

• Before engaging yourself to any type of exercise, consult a physician, especially if you have existing conditions, become sedentary for a long time and above 40 years old. Then consult with a fitness expert regarding the best exercise program for you. Your exercise program should include exercise type, frequency, intensity and duration, and this should match your current fitness goals, age, gender, fitness level and health status.

• Even if you have been doing normal exercise programs for some time now and are fit, before you try a more intense exercise routine, it is still best to consult with health and fitness professionals to avoid injuries, exercise burnout and physical stress.

Several studies proving the effectiveness of HIIT, as compared to continuous endurance training, have caught the attention of exercisers who have been trying to improve their sports or fitness performance and weight management efforts.

• Recent research shows that doing HIIT is more effective than traditional long duration trainings when it comes to cardiovascular and skeletal muscle adaptations (for example, to be able to bike or run longer at a greater intensity) because you can accomplish these cardiovascular endurance training for preventing cardiovascular disease in adolescents. During this seven-week study, the moderate intensity group completed a total of 420 minutes of exercise and the high-intensity group completed a total of 63 minutes.

JUMPING ropes can be done as a home workout.

HIIT protocols

So when and how can you incorporate HIIT into your regular fitness routine so you can get better and faster results? What are the conditions you need to consider to make this type of training work? Do you really need to do HIIT to lose weight and to improve your performance?

• HIIT can always be incorporated into your existing fitness routine, and you don't need to change your exercise program completely. Studies show that doing this program three times a week, on nonconsecutive days, will produce significant effects. But for long-term exercise compliance, once a week is already beneficial, especially if you combine this program with your traditional two to three times a week aerobic workout.

• An additional benefit of HIIT is preventing cardiovascular diseases. A study published in the American Journal of Human Biology last year shows that brief high-intensity cardiovascular training is as beneficial as the traditional endurance training in reducing cardiovascular risk factors. During this seven-week study, the moderate intensity group completed a total of 420 minutes of exercise and the high-intensity group completed a total of 63 minutes.

• Always start with at least five to 10 minutes of warm-up and the same amount of time for cool-down.

• According to Len Kravitz, author of the article "HIIT vs. Continuous Endurance Training: Battle Of The Aerobic Titans," published in the February 2012 issue of IDEA Fitness Journal, if someone has been sedentary for months, it would be better to try a more moderate low-intensity aerobic exercise and program only to HIIT when he/she already sustains a run for 20 consecutive minutes at a moderate intensity.

• Work and rest intervals can vary based on the program goals and fitness level. Work periods usually vary between five seconds to eight minutes, and intensity is higher than 80 percent of the maximum heart rate (MHR). MHR is 220 minus your age. The usual ratio of work to rest for HIIT programs is usually one minute of work to every two to three minutes of rest. And when we talk about rest, MHR should be 50-70 percent. But you can always vary the ratio based on your fitness level (can be 1:1 or 2:1).

Simple ways to increase calorie burn

You don't really need to follow exactly the HIIT training protocols especially if you don't have a coach, so, once you choose your fitness level and don't have enough time to implement a formal exercise program while monitoring your heart rate. You can still maximize your calorie burn before and after your chosen physical activities.

• Running and walking (1:2)—Run as fast as you can for two minutes, then walk for two minutes and repeat the cycle four times.

• Gym workout (1:1)—Use any cardio machine (elliptical, treadmill or rower) for one minute at a high intensity (80-90 percent MHR), slow down for 20 seconds and repeat the cycle 14 times.

• Home workout (1:2)—Perform one minute of skipping rope or jumping jacks or any high intensity cardio routine, then perform a low to moderate-intensity exercise for two minutes, like walking around the house or doing a dance routine.

E-mail the author at mikah.lp@gmail.com.

Turf's up for football, futsal and frisbee fans in the city

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Death Cab for Cutie

SHOW TIME

INDIE Cab for Cutie (brings of pain from Bellingham, Washington) performs in Manila on March 3 at the SMC Tent, Taguig City. Rolling Stone has described the band's music (Warner label) as "melodic, melancholy songs about feeling both smart and confused, hopelessly romantic but wary of love." (ID tickets at P3,000; Gold at P2,000 (TicketNet)

Martin: With Sharon, no stolen kisses

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

NEVER mind broke that Pres-idential Argument over dancing Kimmy Dora, a funny thought hit me. Maybe P-Noy's mom front days pore, "It's mom bus with a Kontrol!"

***

Sharon Cuneta and Martin Nievera join forces for the first time in the ultimate Valentine event, "Once In A Lifetime," on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Big Dome, among the highlights of the concert will be their duet on "Once In A Lifetime," a song composed for the occasion by Ryan Cayabyab with lyrics written by Martin. Sharon and Martin will also perform many of their hits, plus songs that fans have been longing to hear them sing together. (TAHVI I. SIMS at large)

What's the difference between performing with Mega and performing with ex-wife Pops Fernandez? "Working with Ona is awesome," Mary gushed. "But with Pops, the teamwork is economic and second nature to me. The thrill may be the same but there is a unique magic when Pops and I share the same stage. Another big difference is, with Sharon, there are no sudden kisses between the scaffolding."

What's his least love song of all time? "Unchained Melody," Martin says. "It's so heartaching." How does Mary view love at this point in his life? "Love is a climate. It's a transition," he muses. "It's a journey and a happy place all in one."

What's the craziest thing he has done for love? "To bail for it," he says, "and everything that comes with the package."

Like every romantic Pinoy, the Crooner King has gone to hell and back in the name of love. Let his love songs with Sharon take us a little closer to paradise.

***

Looks like David Archuleta won't be able to conrad the English version of Aurora Pinedo's hit composition, "Sandata Mo." David's rendition of the original Tagalog version is quite exhilarating. Before flying to Singapore, Archie had such a frenzied schedule, so he didn't have enough time for rewriting. Too bad, it would have been a break through for an Amer-ican idol to sing the English version of a Pinoy classic which would be a big hit on foreign shores. Hopefully, he can still do it someday soon.

***

Remember my scoop about a Pinoy agent who duped concert producers in Dubai by counting every with the downpayment for Charice—so her show in the UAE didn't push through? Ironically, Charice is set to perform in the City of Gold on March 2, for her Infinity Tour. This time around, the producers are dealing directly with the office of Ogenia Medina. My Dubai friend said the swindler has promised to return the money by bringing Arnel Pineda to perform there for the same amount he stole. Sayang, may hard luster ka sana. A massive manhunt is ongoing to track him down. Pay or pray, dude!

***

Carole DMA, 7's fiery drama series, "Broken Vow" (After "Dear Long Ang Minamahalin," weekdays on Afternoon Prime), top-billed by Sharon Cuneta, Gabby Eigenmann, Lalu Alanday and Rochelle Pangilinan. Sharon portrays a contemporary about to marry her longtime sweetheart. Gabby plays a budding politician destined to marry the woman of his dreams. Lalu plays the guy who helps Sharon's character survive a horrific ordeal and Rochelle is cast as the scorned ex-GF of Gabby's character. It's all ethnic love, treachery, sacrifice and vengeance. All in time for Cupid's coming!

E-mail: sonnieglobe.dorgrl@yahoo.com

SHARON Cuneta

CD JACKET art for Sponge Cola's "Yambag"

A diamond for Sponge Cola

By Pachala Concepcion

SPONGE Cola unveils one as one of the most compelling Pinoy bands to emerge from the post-Eraserheads era. Its lead singer, guitarist and main songwriter, Yael Yuzon, takes pains to create music that captures the same issues of his generation.

The band has successfully crossed over from its early alternative rock audience to a wider pop market that apparently loves its songs, a number of which ("50/50" "Bitin," "Tables," "Peste," "Yambag," "Makapiling Ka") deserving hits and helped sell a lot of albums.

POWER PLANT
LIGHT MALL

MAN ON A LEDGE – PG13 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15	THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO – R18 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20	CONTRABAND THE DESCENDANTS 12:30, 3:00, 5:30/8:00
CHRONICLE – PG13 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:05	THE GREY – R13 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 3D 10:15 – GP 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:15, 9:10

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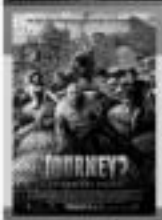

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MOVIEWORLD

Jolie, ex-partner's new films screening in Berlin fest

BERLIN — A new movie from Billy Bob Thornton and a film on Mao in Andersonville by Ilsa Kruger will rub shoulders with offerings from Asia to Africa at this year's Berlin International Film Festival. Organizers announced the program for the event, first of the year's major European fests, which runs Feb. 9-19.

Outside the main competition, high lights include Meryl Streep being honored for her lifetime achievement and Angelina Jolie's directorial debut, the Bosnian war movie "In the Land of Blood and Honey." AP

CHEER FACTOR

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1) UNDERWORLD AWAKENING/JOURNEY 2 (3D)
2) GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
3) CHRONICLES
4) CONTRABAND/HAYWIRE/DARKEST HOUR
5) THE GREY
6) JOURNEY 2
7) MAN ON A LEDGE

GREENBELT 1

1) CHRONICLES
2) JOURNEY 2

GREENBELT 3

1) GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
2) MAN ON A LEDGE
3) CHRONICLES
4) JOURNEY 2
5) THE GREY

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1) MAN ON A LEDGE
2) CHRONICLES
3) JOURNEY 2 (3D)
4) THE GREY
5) THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1) THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
2) HAYWIRE/CONTRABAND
3) THE DARKEST HOUR
4) UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)

MARQUEE

1) THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
2) JOURNEY 2 (3D)
3) CHRONICLES
4) CONTRABAND

MARKET! MARKET!

1) CHRONICLES
2) THE GREY
3) THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
4) UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING/JOURNEY 2
5) JOURNEY 2
6) MAN ON A LEDGE
7) RESERVED

TRINOMA

1) UNDERWORLD AWAKENING
2) DARKEST HOUR
3) MY CACTUS HEART/HAYWIRE
4) CONTRABAND
5) THE GREY
6) THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
7) MAN ON A LEDGE

ABREEZA

1) JOURNEY 2
2) CHRONICLES
3) THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
4) CONTRABAND

For ticket reservations or purchases,
text SureSeats to 2910
(for Globe and Smart) or
log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
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MOVIE SPECIAL

STAR WARS

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2:00 pm at the cinema lobby

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

MARKET! MARKET!

TRINOMA

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET

MARQUEE

AYALA CENTER CEBU

ABREEZA

MYSPACE

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A. LIPPA — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAT LIGSAY

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HONG-GLO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

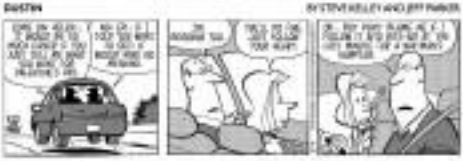
BIRD MACHINE — BY FRANK ABRERA

SEIH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER



TULDOK — BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be patient with children today because the full Moon could cause tension. It also can challenge partnerships with romantic partners. Patience is your ally today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The full Moon today creates a big emotional event for you. Perhaps you're finishing a project or you're releasing someone or something. Just compromise or take what you can get.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The full Moon today creates a big emotional event for you. Perhaps you're finishing a project or you're releasing someone or something. Just compromise or take what you can get.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Today is a wonderful day for love, especially if you're romantically involved. You could find a new romance, and then celebrate with a big gift or a night out. Romance is in the air.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today the only full Moon of each year ushers in a big day. Naturally, this could be a day for celebrations with friends and family. Enjoy the festivities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Wonderfully, today's full Moon will create a few problems in the workplace or for coworkers. Most problems quickly dissipate after the full Moon ends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Today's romance with friends becomes especially passionate. You could find a new romance with a friend. Naturally, this is just full Moon season, now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Today's full Moon activates part of your chart that rules your career. You could find a new position or a promotion. Romance is also heightened during a full Moon, romantically.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today could be an excellent day for any kind of legal matters. Perhaps you're finishing a project or you're releasing someone or something. Just compromise or take what you can get.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) A couple too close for comfort may hurt financial decisions today. Someone has a different career ambition. It's hard to make certain decisions in your favor when you're influenced.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Today the only full Moon of the year that is opposite your sign is taking place. This is a positive development for you, because it means that you're finishing projects that you've been working on for a long time.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Be especially productive with others, especially at work today. Everyone feels the tension of the full Moon because it affects bodies of water, and we are mostly water.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs and information, go to www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

8	1	7	5	6	4	2	3	9
4	3	6	2	9	7	1	8	5
5	2	9	1	8	3	7	4	6
6	8	4	3	7	5	9	2	1
9	5	1	8	2	6	4	7	3
7	6	3	4	1	9	5	8	2
1	9	8	6	5	2	3	1	4
2	4	5	7	3	1	8	9	7
3	7	2	9	4	8	6	5	1

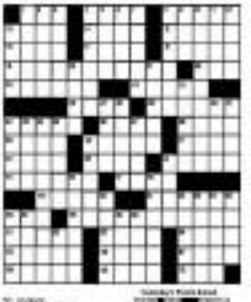
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1		5					7	
				8		2		6
2					7	9	8	
			1			8		
	2			9			1	
		7			6			
	4	1	2					7
5		9		3				
	7					6		5

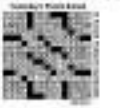
Difficulty Level ★★

Conceptis Puzzles, Ltd. www.conceptispuzzles.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



A diamond for Sponge Cola

from page B1

Its record label, Universal, recently reported that Sponge Cola's 2010 EP "Tambay" had gone diamond (150,000 copies sold).

Tuazon, representing his band mates Erwin Antwerp (lead guitar), Gosh Dilay (bass) and Yedmark Cruz (drums), took time to chat with the Inquirer over mail:

The band has been in the music scene for quite some time. Did you imagine it would live this long, and why so?

I always believed it would. That's really how I operate: I don't count on stuff thinking I'm going to lose. I dream, I set goals and I work hard to make things happen. That's why I'm very thankful for all the support from everyone. I once tossed off this belief and everyone passed me way for the vision to be realized. It was a team effort by friends, supporters and even haters.

Looking back, how would you describe the progress of your songwriting?

I tend to think too much these days, so there is a constant struggle between being a bit too ballistic or robotic and being plain and direct from song to song.

Pick three songs that reflect this songwriting progress.

In the song "She Weeps," which I wrote when I was 12, there's vagueness and ambiguity, as opposed to "Oh, Oh!" which is very straightforward. Not much metaphor there, just wordplay. Similarly, "Tambay" is also very direct. It's about people developing feelings within the context of a barkada. Very light and... yes, direct.

Which album best captures the essence of why the band exists?

It would have to be the most recent one, "Atin Ono Tapusan." The band exists because we love what we do, and since one concept of love changes over time, it's safe to assume the most recent one will have to be the winner.

> 'Everyone helped realize this vision. It's a team effort by friends, supporters and even haters'

How do you deal with the challenges of a changing music industry, even as your "Tambay" EP has reportedly gone diamond?

It has gone diamond, thanks to our supporters old and new. I think that our insularity in this ever-changing industry is still supporting self -sustainability. That—and we've always been very hands-on and very active online. We have our own YouTube channel and Facebook page to help us deal with the changes in the industry.

'Lab Ko 'To' at Aliw Theater

from page B1

Dina Mercado, Eugene Villaluz and Ray Ian Fuentes perform a tribute to the '70s era in "Loving in the '70s" at the Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan on Feb. 10 and 11. Call 0917-5135604.

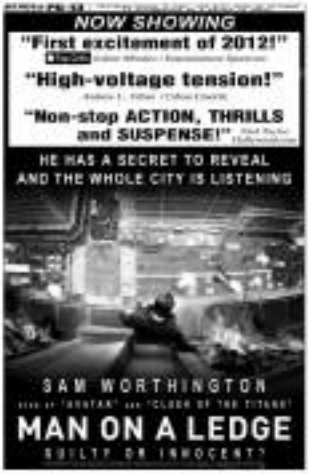
ENGELBERT Humperdinck

Sikil, Pagcor 5

"The Concert Tour 2012" presents Bibi Natanzo with the Pagcor 5 as special guests in a concert tour that kicks off at the Acqua Casino Filipino branch in Pasay City on Feb. 2. Other shows will be at the Casino Filipino Mimosa, Feb. 4; Casino Filipino Pavilion, Feb. 7; Casino Filipino Tagaytay, Feb. 18; Casino Filipino Angeles, Feb. 16; Casino Filipino Banawa, Feb. 22; Casino Filipino Cebu, Feb. 23; Casino Filipino Dumo, Feb. 23; Casino Filipino Heart, Feb. 27; Casino Filipino Olongapo, Feb. 28; and Casino Filipino Heritage, Feb. 29. Call 812.7712 to 20.

Philippine Arts Festival

This year's Philippine Arts Festival, a month-long National Arts Month celebration, presents the Ifugao de Gun Gay and from Feb. 20 to 25 in Baguio City and Iloilo. Call 527.2392, 0928.5061857 or 0908.6369412.



'Lab Ko 'To' at Aliw Theater

BALLET Manila wraps up its 15th season with the ballet gala "Lab Ko 'To," a collection of world-premiere pieces by choreographers Mac Lenz III, Augusto Damian and Manuel Molina, combined with a classical favorite, "Sarasilla Pas De Deux" (from "The Sleeping Carnival"), and a touch of the exotic in "Motion," an international award-winning piece by the choreographer Gerardo Francisco. Presented by the Manila Broadcasting Company, Aliw Theater and Stellarworx, it goes on stage on Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. and Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 891-9999, 476-2232, 488-0252 or 525-3567.

Sharon with Martin

Sharon Cuneta performs in a special Valentine concert with Martin Nievera at the Smart Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 11. Call 887-7236 or 911-5555.

Engelbert Humperdinck

"Engelbert Humperdinck Live in Concert at the Manila Hotel" happens at the Peninsula Pavilion on "Valentine's Day at 7 p.m. British pop singer Humperdinck is famous for his songs "Release Me," "Have I Told You Lately," "Quando Quando, Quando," "A Man Without Love" and "Spanish Eyes." Call 527-0811 local 1271.

Cara Mangloyan

"Eat...Jaan. Love" featuring Carla Mangloyan and the Kasoulitos Unplugged goes on stage on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Asiatic Hotel Manila, Alabang.

Jon Santos

"Love is 187 features Jon Santos and his all-star cast of one on Feb. 15 at the Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World Manila. Tickets are available at Ticketnet.ph, Resorts World Box Office and Viva Concerts. Call 687-7226.

Rico J

Rico J. Puno brings his soulful singing and humor to the Newport Performing Arts Theater on Feb. 14, with Ketsy Santos and Alyssa Sarpa. Tickets are available at Resorts World Manila and Ticketworld. Call 891-9999.

Love songs

Jaspal Magno, Louie Reyes, Ric Guerilla, [illegible]

NIKKI, No. 19 OPM | WILLIE Revillame | ADELE, No. 8 overall

Willie Revillame tops OPM slot anew

TOP-SELLING albums in the country for the week Jan. 22-29, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) Gilli Sweetchin, "Sil Tiad," MCA Music; 2) Gela Sweetchin, "The Boy (Initial Edition)," MCA; 3) Willie Revillame, "Bendang Bendang," Viva Records; 4) Various Artists, "Grammy Nominees 2012," MCA; 5) Angeline Quinto, "Pembor Ang Bangang," Star Records; 6) Basil S. Valdez, "Basil S. Valdez," Show Music; 7) Sagar Aarzoo, "Mr. Simple," Universal Records; 8) Adele, "21," Warner Music; 9) Katy Perry, "Teenage Dream," Mythtar Records; 10) Various Artists, "The The Hottest Hits... Ever," MCA.

OPM

1) Willie Revillame, "Bendang Bendang," Viva; 2) Angeline Quinto, "Pwede Ang Bangang," Star; 3) Basil S. Valdez, "Basil S. Valdez," Viva; 4) Willie Revillame, "Dyesmyan," Viva; 5) Gary Valenciano, "With Love," Star; 6) Sunburst, "Sa Wakas, Sa Moon," Polyfast; 7) Anne Curtis, "Resolusyona," Viva; 8) Various Artists, "Today's Bossa'lot Love Songs Unplugged, Vol. 7," Forty Music & Video; 9) Juris, "Forevermore," Star; 10) Slam, "Stay Alive," Universal.

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO